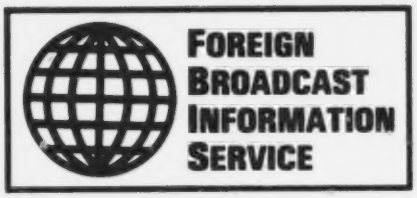

Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-007 *10 January 1990*

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Cuba

Rodriguez Attends 'Crucial' CEMA Meeting

FL0901122590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Jan 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Under the most intense challenge faced during the past 40 years, a crucial, closed-door CEMA meeting began today in Sophia, Bulgaria. According to Bulgarian Prime Minister [as heard] Georgi Atanasov, the renovation of cooperation mechanisms and the democratization of relations are aspects that will be discussed by the participants.

This 45th CEMA session, which was scheduled for 1989, gathers together in the Bulgarian capital government leaders from the USSR, CSSR, Poland, Hungaria, Bulgaria, Romania, DPRK, Cuba, Vietnam, and Mongolia, all full CEMA members.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

Nicaragua, Angola, Afghanistan, Laos, Mozambique, and Yemen are also attending the meeting as observers. The CEMA meeting will end tomorrow.

CEMA Existence at Stake

FL0901135690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1141 GMT 9 Jan 90

["Our Opinion" commentary by Pedro Berastegui from the "Haciendo Radio" program—live]

[Text] CEMA, founded in Warsaw on 25 January 1949, was the principal force for socialist economic integration by coordinating and complementing the 5-year plans established by its members. A clear alternative to the unequal economic development characteristic of the capitalist system, the new kind of relations between its full members—Bulgaria, Cuba, CSSR, GDR, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR, and Vietnam—were followed with interest and hope by developing nations in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, some of which—Nicaragua, Angola, Afghanistan, Laos, Mozambique, and Yemen—now hold observer status in the organization.

Like all human projects, CEMA's mechanisms and programs are subject to improvement. However, during the 45th CEMA session inaugurated today in Sophia, Bulgaria, it seems that more than improvement is involved here. What is at stake here is the existence of the organization, bankrupt by the decision of some of its associates to implement a market economy and regress to capitalism.

Poland, Hungary, CSSR, and Romania are advocating the dissolution of the CEMA by introducing a number of bilateral agreements backed by convertible currency and world market prices. The official position stated by the CSSR Communist Party is that the economic level of CEMA affiliates does not allow complete participation in the international division of labor with capitalist industrialized countries.

Bulgaria and the USSR have made it know that they will hold different and moderate positions at the 45th CEMA session, some of which, nevertheless, show little difference. For example, the RABOTNICHESKO DELO newspaper, organ of the Bulgarian Communist Party suggested that a new CEMA be established based on the experiences of the Common Market of the capitalist European countries. The newspaper insisted that radical changes are needed and relations between CEMA members should henceforth be based on economics, mutual interest, and reciprocal advantages.

Prior to the Sofia meeting, the BERLINER ZEITUNG newspaper in Berlin published a pragmatic article. It warned against the view that only Western assistance can help solve the economic situation of East Europe. It is a reality that ties exist in the CEMA that are decades old, the article added, and no member can renounce these ties without producing great economic shakeups.

The prevailing tendencies in the 45th CEMA session first focus on the interests of lesser-developed countries—Cuba, Mongolia, and Vietnam—although the consequences could also be ill-fated for others. It is suicide to relegate efficient instruments of political and socioeconomic cohesiveness in view of the growing arrogance of the U.S. imperialists and the determination of its European allies to consolidate their ties and capitalize on the crisis in East Europe.

What will be left after that—the road opened by Poland and Hungary to mortgage the future to the IMF, whose dictates last year led to violent social disturbances in Venezuela and Jordan, or the dignity of principles and resistance under difficult conditions?

Changes for improvement are fine but to eliminate with the CEMA progressive humanity's dream for a more just international economic order is to put constraints on a serious responsibility to the peoples.

Rodriguez Addresses Session

FL0901184290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] This is a special report for Radio Rebelde. The Cuban delegation attending the 45th CEMA meeting is presided over by Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

The meeting began at 0900 and is presided over by Georgi Atanasov, chairman of Bulgaria's Council of Ministers. The heads of the delegations from CEMA-member countries that have spoken up to now include Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR, and the CSSR.

In his speech, the head of the Cuban delegation, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, said that the dramatic events in several member countries have introduced changes in those countries, which in many cases affect the very nature of the state and alter the possibilities for its immediate and future work. This also affects CEMA's activities and because of this, he added, the discussions held during this session acquire special significance. The Cuban official also said that the meeting is held at a time of changing and contradictory international circumstances. The invasion of Panama and other events confirm that the ideology of imperialism cannot be reverted [desideologizada] and that imperialism maintains its decision to regulate the destinies of the world and dominate the peoples of the Third World. Rodriguez also mentioned our country's achievements, which have been made possible by socialism. He also referred to the matters under discussion at the CEMA meeting.

The meeting should end tomorrow afternoon.

This report was provided by Dr Jose Peraza, main legal adviser of the Permanent Secretariat for CEMA Affairs of the Council of Ministers.

This is Teresita Capote, press secretary of the Cuban Embassy in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Need for Restructuring CEMA

FL1001004990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0002 GMT 10 Jan 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Today Cuba agreed with the other CEMA member countries that a complete restructuring of the socialist economic organization is necessary. The statement, my friends, was made by Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez during the 45th CEMA meeting, which has begun at the Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria.

However, Carlos Rafael warned the heads of governments and their representatives at the meeting that renovating CEMA does not mean abandoning the principles that were used as a basis to organize it. To introduce the market, he added, can in no way mean an anarchy of production. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that to recognize a certain level of private property does not mean this should become the main role of society.

In another part of his speech, the Cuban vice president acknowledged that a plan should never become a straight jacket, a plan that guarantees savings and efficiency in the production resources; and he pointed out that a plan is also used by the large modern capitalist states. The same thing occurs with prices, Carlos Rafael added; the errors of socialism do not originate in the system but in the inabilities of those who have run it. He said: Let's not idealize the prices of the world market. Third World economists have shown the unacceptable inequality of that market with regard to basic products.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said one of the great achievements of CEMA is its introduction of preferential prices for non-European countries who are members of the organization. He also noted that this same method is used by other economic organizations, such as the EEC with regard to the Lome Convention. The Cuban vice president emphasized that any solutions to the CEMA prices must also include the principles that guarantee the progressive equality of the levels among Mongolia, Cuba, and Vietnam, and the most developed European countries associated with CEMA.

Rodriguez, USSR's Ryzhkov Meet

FL1001034590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0311 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Within the framework of the 45th CEMA meeting being held in the Bulgarian capital, Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has met with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

During the dialogue, particular attention was paid to the state and prospects of Soviet-Cuban economic cooperation, from a bilateral as well as a multilateral perspective within CEMA. The officials also examined concrete aspects of the interior development of the economic cooperation of the two countries within the context of the measures discussed in CEMA for the radical restructuring and renovation of bilateral cooperation in the organization.

Nikolay Ryzhkov and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez emphasized that the USSR and Cuba have gained a lot of experience in their multifaceted cooperation, which has been based on sincere interest in the successful development of the two nations.

Havana Notes Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Panama

FL1001030990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Today approximately 150 Panamanian students and intellectuals participated in the first anti-U.S. demonstration since the Yankee army invasion of the isthmian country on 20 December 1989. The demonstrators were commemorating the anniversary of the deed of the 9 January 1964 martyrs, when 22 Panamanians were killed in clashes with U.S. soldiers.

The new Panamanian ambassador to the UN, (Eduardo Vallarino), said today that the first task of the regime imposed by the United States is to review all the positions of the previous government in international [word indistinct]. (Vallarino) expressed his hope that once the United States withdraws its troops, Latin American countries will reestablish normal relations with the pro-Yankee government of Guillermo Endara. [passage omitted]

1990 Sports Agreement Signed With Spain

FL0801142090 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] On 7 January, Cuba and Spain signed a sports cooperation agreement for this year at the Havana headquarters of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation (INDER). Javier Gomez Navarro, secretary of state and president of the Higher Sports Council of Spain, and Conrado Martinez Corona, head of INDER, signed the document that includes an extensive calendar of joint activities—which will begin in May with a chess tournament.

Moments prior to signing the bilateral sports agreement, Martinez Corona stressed the importance of the agreements signed, while Gomez Navarro said there is a lot of room for Cuban-Spanish cooperation in the sports sector.

[Begin recording] [Martinez Corona] Sports exchange between the two countries has grown by about 40 percent, if you compare it to the previous year. This alone explains the volume and magnitude of what we have done or of what we propose to do. In terms of the agreement and Gomez Navarro's visit to our country—and in reference to specific exchanges—we are unable to exceed the agreement we have signed. It also is significant in reference to the role played by Spain and Cuba in the Latin American sports movement.

[Gomez Navarro] I think the agreement we signed reflects the friendship and willingness of two peoples to mutually help each other and to cooperate. It reflects the sports sector because that is the area that encompasses us. We are two countries that can help each other, that have many areas in which to cooperate and will provide the means for this. Since the (?1985) general cooperation agreement was signed, cooperation has been expanding, increasing. It has been very useful and we expect it to continue this way for the sports sector in each country. [end recording]

Havana Notes Changes Taking Place in Romania

FL0901191490 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Romania's National Salvation Front reported today that university autonomy will be the fundamental criteria in the organization and operation of higher education. A government note also promised the enforcement of an education law which will provide for the reduction of hours for students and requirements for professors. The aspiring students will have to complete the military service before beginning higher education courses.

Commentary Rules Out Creation of 'Miniparties'

FL0901195890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The most important outcome of the rectification process is that it has been instrumental in strengthening our Communist Party of Cuba. This factor is absolutely essential for the revolution and for the country. As Fidel has told us, there can be no revolution without the party; nor could we build socialism without it. Nothing will undermine the prestige and authority of our party. However, if there were something, we should immediately react by waging a firm, decisive battle until eradicating the offending evil without hesitation or weakness.

Cuba does not regard the revolution as a game. Cuba does not regard socialism as a game. The history of our struggle against imperialism in the past 3 decades clearly testifies to this assertion. The geographical and historical framework in which we we have waged the struggle of our revolution has forced us to engage in heroic actions almost every day. We will never give up the standard of living achieved by our people despite blockades, acts of aggression, hostilities, or slander.

Anyone seeking to disrupt this noble, dignifying, and humane process will have to fight to the death. The main responsibility for leadership in this battle will rest with our Communist Party. Quoting Fidel, we must say here once and for all that we do not need more than one party, just as Marti did not need more than one party to promote the struggle for the independence of Cuba, just as Lenin did not need more than one party to mount the October revolution. I am saying this to disappoint those harboring the illusion that we are going to allow miniparties [partidos de bolsillo] here. To organize whom? The counterrevolutionaries, the pro-Yankee sectors, the bourgeois? No. There is only one party here, the party of our people, who are solidly and unshakeably united. This is the only one that exists and will exist.

Fifth Castro, PCC Meeting Report

FL2812125389 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0248 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Fifth and final part of "highlights" of meeting of national and provincial leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, held in Havana from 11-13 December under the chairmanship of PCC First Secretary Fidel Castro—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] How is the Turquino Plan going; what can you tell us about it?

[Roberto Damian Alfonso, PCC first secretary in Granma Province] I am getting to that point. Electrification and communications plans are under way in the mountains and across the province. Our plan for this year envisages the installation of 500 km of electrical

lines. We are expediting this plan because of the problems we (?have experienced). If we cannot complete this plan, we would still have come very close to installing 500 km of electrical lines.

[Castro] How are we doing in the housing construction area?

[Alfonso] [Passage indistinct] 15,000 houses in the province.

[Castro] So you are building 15,000 houses on your own.

[Alfonso] Well, during 3 years we built 8,000 annually.

[Castro] Thus, you did not build 15,000 annually, but 15,000 in....

[Alfonso, interrupting] [Words indistinct] in 5 years.

[Castro, interrupting] ...working; and how many are being built by cooperatives, farms, and government construction?

[Alfonso] We are going to finish 1,269 this year.

[Castro] That is really very few, right?

[Alfonso] Very few.

[Castro] How many houses for family doctors are you building this year?

[Alfonso] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Eighty-six. What is the infant mortality rate in Granma this year?

[First unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] How many?

[Alfonso] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] What rate did you have last year?

[Alfonso] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] So you have reduced it.

[Alfonso] Yes.

[Castro] Well, going to another subject, the road that is built there....

[Alfonso, interrupting] So, we are now going to discuss the road program. This matter is the most difficult, because roads are in such poor condition in Granma. We are having a lot of problems with the equipment, Commander.

[Castro] Yes.

[Alfonso] We have the Bayamo-Niquero project. We have already completed 60 km and more than 40 km with [words indistinct]. We have had some problems. We are in the process of building a bridge to get to [words indistinct].

[Jorge A. Valdes, PCC first secretary in Sancti Spiritus Province] We continue to work on the highway to honor our commitment; we will try to finish the highway to Ciego de Avila in 1990. In our road program, we seek to complete this year the [words indistinct] road, which will link Yaguajay with the capital city, Sancti Spiritus. Per your instructions, we already organized the [word indistinct] brigade. The brigades of mountain areas in Tres Palmas, [words indistinct] started a few days ago.

Regarding house construction, we should finish approximately 2,822 houses, which is a small quantity, as you noted with regard to another province. Of this amount, 900 are being built by the Construction Ministry; 900 are being built with our own resources; and the remaining houses are being financed by the Ministry of the Sugar Industry and by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The electrification program in our province now stands at 94 percent; that is, 90.9 percent of our electricity consumers are connected to the national energy plan, and the remaining facilities are connected to other systems, thus reaching 94.7 percent.

Thus far, 103,089 houses have been connected to electricity systems in our province.

The family doctor program, which is a public health program, is one of the important programs in our province. At this time, we have 920 doctors; that is, 2.15 doctors per 1,000 residents. Each doctor in our province has 464 patients. We have 197 dentists, 2,463....

[Castro, interrupting] How many family doctors did you say you have?

[Valdes] We have 214 family doctors and 10 alternates; 224 all told.

[Castro] What is the infant mortality rate?

[Valdes] It now stands at 13.1.

[Castro] Why did it rise?

[Valdes] Yes. It has gone up, especially in July and August. Well, this year, in 1988 [as heard] we completed 40 offices for family doctors, 3 physiotherapist gymnasiums, 2 similar gymnasiums are under way; we completed both the first and the second stage of the remodeling of the Trinidad Hospital. As I told you earlier, construction of the AIDS hospital is now in its second stage; we built polyclinics in Zaza and Yaguajay. In 1989, we also completed the Fomento dental clinic, which you dedicated. As you saw then, construction of the Fomento polyclinic is now in its last stage, work is now under way to complete the ground floor. We are also in the process of enlarging the Sancti Spiritus Pediatrics Hospital to add 144 beds. I repeat, we are also working on the Yaguajay polyclinic, on the Santi Spiritus home for the handicapped, and on the remodeling of the Fomento polyclinic. We are also working on the blood bank, which is a project that has been behind schedule for a few years. We are enlarging the Sancti Spiritus

psychiatric hospital to make it lodge 200 patients. The hospital can now lodge 99 patients. This year we will finish facilities to enable the hospital to hold 116 more patients, the kitchen-dining room, and next year, we will make it hold (?220).

[Castro] When are you going to start construction of the pediatrics hospital?

[Valdes] Did you say the pediatrics, how many beds?

[Castro] When do you have to start construction of the new pediatrics hospital?

[Valdes] I am sorry, we do not have a timetable for it.

[Castro] For the time being....

[Valdes, interrupting] For the time being, we do not have a timetable.

[Castro] Because you are adding 144 beds to the one you have now.

[Valdes] Yes, we enlarged the old pediatrics hospital to enable it to hold more than 200 beds. We are now adding 144 beds.

[Castro] How long will this addition satisfy your needs?

[Valdes] I believe it will be sufficient for the next 3, 4, or 5 years.

[Castro] Are you building day care centers?

[Valdes] We are now building three day care centers.

[Castro] Are you building special schools?

[Valdes] We are building one in Sancti Spiritus.

[Castro] How many special schools do you need in Sancti Spiritus?

[Valdes] According to one study, we need around four special schools there. [passage indistinct].

[Castro] Nobody knows? Perhaps Fernandez knows how many special schools are needed in Granma.

[Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez] Officially, yes, there should be 161. In Granma, they need a total of 9 schools; in Sancti Spiritus, 8.

[Castro] How many houses for family doctors are ready?

[Valdes] One hundred and two.

[Castro] This year. What is the infant mortality rate?

[Valdes] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Did it rise or decline?

[Valdes] It rose.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] we are struggling to reduce the rate in the country, but it is rising in Sancti Spiritus Province.

[Valdes] No. The infant mortality rate stood at 12 in 1987; last year, at 10; and this year, 11. Last year, as of this time of year, 6 had died; 2 up until yesterday [sentence as heard]. This figure may still decline slightly. Health technical experts who evaluated the program have found it well conceived. According to them, the infant mortality rate should follow a declining trend in the province.

[Castro] Tejas, is Tejas there? What is the infant mortality rate at the national level?

[Public Health Minister Julio Tejas] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] What?

[Tejas] Without considering extrainstitutional figures, our national rate now stands at 11.20.

[Castro] 11.20?

[Tejas] It is either 11.25 or 11.23....

[Castro, interrupting] 11.2. Well, we will inevitably be over 11 this year.

[Tejas] I don't think so.

[Castro] We will reduce the infant mortality rate by .7 or perhaps .8. Because if we have provinces like Pinar del Rio, where the rate is going up; in Sancti Spiritus, where the rate is going up; you reduced it....

[Tejas, interrupting] [Words indistinct] spoke critically because you know that Pinar del Rio had a very bad start. Pinar del Rio started by having nearly 20 per thousand, and it has been gradually reducing this rate. They have made a great effort and have made much progress. [passage indistinct].

[Second unidentified speaker] The trend, Commander,....

[Castro] How many day care centers have you built this year?

[Second unidentified speaker] Well, based on the existing demand, we first built 23. Now, we have more than 40.

[Castro] Why, of course. With the support we are giving, all women may be willing to get pregnant again. [passage indistinct]. That is what must have happened....

[Second unidentified speaker, interrrupting] No, we did it to follow the standing guidelines that all working mothers should have day care centers.

[Castro] Those who need it.

[Second unidentified speaker] Those who need it.

[Castro] How many vocational schools do you have to build?

[Second unidentified speaker] Ten.

[Castro] How many special schools?

[Second unidentified speaker] Three. We completed one in January in [words indistinct].

[Castro] Just one.

[Second unidentified speaker] Just one.

[Castro] Thus, you still have to build two special schools.

What pace will the special school program have?

[Second unidentified speaker] Well, commander, we once had a 3-year program. We could not do that this year. We still do not have figures for next year.

[Castro] I see that the provinces are falling behind Havana in this area. In other areas, you are better than Havana, but you fall behind Havana in this area of special schools. It is assumed, it is hoped that Havana will complete the 24 schools this year that it was supposed to build. It is true that Havana had more, but it will meet its goals in the area of special schools. I can see, however, that there are problems in the area of special schools in the other provinces. We must think about this. We must build day care centers, we must build schools, we must build polyclinics. It is also very important to build vocational schools. We can take advantage of our idle work force, of those who neither study nor work. I believe vocational schools are most useful and beneficial to our country. This is also applicable to special schools: We need schools for 80,000 students, and we have room for more than 50,000. It is a little sad to think that the special schools program is falling behind in the provinces.

As far as the day care centers are concerned, I see that they were being built, what concerns me....[changes thought] I am of course concerned about the day care centers. As far as the demand is concerned, this is something very difficult to determine, because in Havana there were 19,500; 25,000 were created; and there are now 14,000 [figures as heard]. It seems as though even grandmothers are sending their children to day care centers. Well, these are subjected to relative considerations. We must take into account the needs for development, the economic needs, the most critical areas.

We must build vocational schools. All those boys who are wandering around there can join the work force that we need in industrial, construction, and other efforts. I would not like to see this program fall too far behind.

The special schools program is very important because they are needed by those children who are physically impaired, mentally retarded, or have behavioral problems. The fewer special schools we build now, the more prisons we will have to build later. (?I do not see) a good future for those young school dropouts. I do not know if Fernandez' program is oversized—nobody knows this—but I am convinced that the special schools program here in the capital is not oversized.

I can see that some provinces have a far greater need than others. Obviously, they have not done much in this area. I believe it is our duty to make the country move more evenly. In many areas, the provinces made an even progress and they even made better progress than the capital. Havana City has tremendous problems, namely the housing problem. The housing program is far behind schedule. This is a serious problem in the capital because it gives way to unhealthy neighborhoods, it promotes lawlessness and criminals, and even lumpens. Thus, there are a few things in which the capital [words indistinct]. As far as day care centers are concerned, I believe Havana City has moved ahead of the other provinces, even though they are saying now that they need 14,000. [number as heard]

[Second unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] What? But, do the women continue to [words indistinct]. So, we are using that word. [Words indistinct] because if the demand was 19,500 and we built 25,000 in a little more than 2 years and they continue to pester you, then we must tell them to take things easier. [laughter] This either means that all women are now getting pregnant or mothers-in-law or grandmothers have decided they no longer want to babysit. [words indistinct] In any case, if we add 25,000 to 14,000, we may say that out of 39,000 [words indistinct]. We truly supplied 25 percent more than requested. This is a typical case of how some needs grow.

This problem does not affect the boys having visual or hearing or other problems. Some of those schools are spectacular. I have seen the school for the visually impaired. It is spectacular. The schools for those having behavioral problems are equally spectacular. Those boys are intelligent, active. Those are very important schools.

Vocational schools are also very important because they help prevent crimes. We are not talking about luxurious schools but about good schools. This is why I am asking you here that, with the help of Jose, [Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez] to boost this program. I want you to be aware that if you do not boost it in the provinces, this program will not work. Anything that is not supported by the party will not work in the provinces.

We have other small projects requiring the help of the provinces. I am talking about university projects. There are disastrous problems that are still pending such as the ISCAH [Higher Institute of Agricultural and Animal Sciences of Havana] project, which has been under construction for 20 years; (Cojaica), which has been under construction for 25 years; some pedagogical school projects that were never implemented; some school projects that were never completed; hospitals that were

not completed; and university faculties. This is why it is a good idea for you to [word indistinct] vocational and special schools, plus the day care center program, development programs, and university programs. I am not saying we must give absolute priority to all this. We are assigning absolute priority to other things; that is, to our economic effort, but we cannot overlook these efforts.

[Francisco Garcia Ferrer, PCC first secretary in Holguin Province] We have completed more than 100 projects in the province, including 5 day care centers, 1 semiboarding school, the Gibara Psychiatric Hospital, the supermarket.... [changes thought], well, a very important project in the province was the Marianao Pediatrics Hospital. Because of the experience gained by that brigade, we have now assigned it to....

[Castro, interrupting] It is true that you built the Marianao Hospital.

[Garcia] We also count it as a project achieved by Holguin Province. We have now assigned that brigade to work on the clinical-surgical hospital. This is a project on the 3 million scale, [as heard] but we will not get there. We will get to 1.8. [as heard] Next year, we will have to assign it top priority to be able to finish the hospital in 1991, because this hospital is greatly needed. The situation at the Lenin Hospital is criticial—I must say that here—because it is very crowded. I believe we in the province must make a great effort to improve it.

We planned to build 147 offices for family doctors; we have finished 39. Most of these offices are in the final construction stages. Only a few will be completed in January because we already have all the materials needed. I believe that we will have only 8 or 10 pending in January.

[Third unidentified speaker] Regarding the housing plan in the province, this year we built 1,536 houses. We are building 11,000 houses with our own resources, and we expect to complete approximately 200. The advantage here is that because these houses are being built with personal resources, these houses immediately acquire a sure value.

[Castro] Are you finishing any day care centers?

[Third unidentified speaker] We have finished four.

[Castro] This year?

[Third unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Castro] Where did you build them?

[Third unidentified speaker] We built one in [word indistinct], two in Las Tunas, and one in Puerto Padre.

[Castro] What about doctors?

[Third unidentified speaker] We have 195 [corrects himself] 191 family doctors, we are going to reach.... [passage indistinct]

[Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, PCC first secretary in Ciego de Avila Province] [Word indistinct] these are the investments. We have many more. As you know, we completed the Moron Hospital, a landmark project, which had a real good outcome. We practically finished it in 1 year. We also completed the Medical Faculty branch, which also had a real good outcome and which has become a real good health complex. We are working to enlarge the Ciego de Avila hospital; we are working on the pediatrics hospital and the Ciego de Avila Medical Faculty. We also completed the provincial pharmacy store. This means that we have made much progress in the area of health.

We already have 195 family doctors; this year we have to set up facilities for 82 family doctors. These projects are moving. We are now assigning doctors to day care centers.

Regarding education, this year we built six day care centers.

[Castro] You built six, but how many do you have to build?

[Hondal] We had to build six, and we did. We planned to build five next year. We are improving our capabilities to start with the [word indistinct] this year. We enlarged the (ISACA), as planned....

[Castro, interrupting] The what?

[Hondal] The (ISACA) is our university agricultural center. Progress is being made in that center. The Medical Sciences building has been completed; the Pedagogical building will be completed next year; and we are planning to complete the entire university in 1991. The pedagogical building will also have bedrooms because teachers [words indistinct].

[Fourth unidentified speaker] Regarding the Biotechnology building, it is a matter of receiving the stainless steel sinks from Spain, laboratory (?equipment), electromedical equipment. There are just details pending. [Words indistinct] very beautiful. Our comrades are already conducting some research.

Regarding public health, Commander, we are working to rebuild the provincial hospital with the hospital personnel themselves; that is, we are giving the required materials. The intermediate care ward has been enlarged and we are now working for [words indistinct]. We already built the intensive care ward, we are now building the intermediate care ward, we built the section for duty personnel. The hospital personnel themselves built the cafeteria; that is, we gave them the materials and they built it. They are doing a good job.

[Castro] How many family doctors do you have?

[Fourth unidentified speaker] We have 520 doctors in the province; 404 of them have offices, that is, houses.

[Castro] You have 520 doctors in the province?

[Fourth unidentified speaker] Yes. We have 520 doctors. We are completing 83 offices this year.

[Castro] Is any special political work being done with the family doctors, taking into account their enormous social influence?

[Fourth speaker] I'll tell you....

[Castro, interrupting] The human quality [words indistinct].

[Fourth speaker] I would like to explain this to you, if you will give me a moment.

Our executive bureau discussed the entire family doctor system on several occasions. This last time, the public health people and the bureau members attended the meeting. We chose two family doctors who had integral work in the communities. We looked for doctors who were not only efficient, but who were also efficient in organizing youths who did not want to work. They organized the youths that drank a lot, as well as other youths. They did everything. They worked in theater, anything. We came to the conclusion that within the education system, it is very important that there be professors who were family doctors so they can teach the subject of family doctors, not just from a medical viewpoint, but from a social viewpoint.

[Castro] I asked the leaders of the mechanical industry factories that met here not long ago about the family doctor's role in the factory. They said wonderful things about them. They are even participating in the process of checking the employees and we found that [words indistinct]. There is a certain amount of importance to the number of men between the ages of 20 and 30 who have high blood pressure problems.

[Fourth speaker] That is the biggest problem in all work centers.

[Castro] I asked Tejas to conduct a study of these young people, to determine the factors involved. There is a relatively large number of youths with high-blood pressure. That would be the responsibility of the [words indistinct].

[Fourth speaker] You know that when the family doctor is there, blood pressures (?go up). When the workers know they are close to the doctor, whether it's a problem of tension, of [words indistinct].

[Jorge Lezcano, PCC first secretary of Havana City Province] I want to tell you, Commander, that this year we will finish 4,700 apartments. That is the largest number of apartments we have built. Our own resources will be used for 2,000 of them. We can implement a group of programs. We have not yet counted them but there are probably more than 40, each of which confronts and solves all kinds of problems, big and small, in the city. I will mention these briefly. I will begin with the health sector.

In the health sector, we had to confront subjective and objective problems. We are progressing gradually with the subjective problems. Today, the situation with the province's health services is much more favorable. I do not want to say that we do not still have problems, but compared to 4 years ago, the situation of the quality of services in the capital has improved a lot. From an objective point of view, we proposed to change the problem of the shortage of hospital beds in the capital, to repair and maintain all the hospitals with the same hospital work force. Our program is being fulfilled satisfactorily. We built all the hospitals we planned to build in 3 years. The number of beds—4,000—that we proposed to supply during these 3 years has been exceeded. We now have 4,500 and we may even have 4,800 next week when the expansion to the (SIMEC) and the (IPK) [expansions unknown] are finished. This is what we will have next year in the hospital area.

We proposed building 20 polyclinics. Nine of them are now operating and we should finish the other 11 by the end of the year. In reference to the construction of family doctor houses-offices, the program has been progressing as expected. We have 1,897 family doctors who render service to 75 percent of the population's capital. This year, we will finish 300 of the 400 family doctor installations we planned to build.

At this time, the province's infant mortality rate is 10.6 percent. We have seven municipalities that are under 10 percent. Boyeros municipality has the most favorable situation with 6.3 percent.

[Castro] Lezcano, were there fewer births?

[Lezcano] There were fewer births.

[Castro] How many?

[Lezcano] There were about 506 fewer births.

[Castro] In Havana there were....

[Lezcano, interrupting] That is approximate.

In education, we are implementing a program for all fields. We have 24 special education schools and we have 15 more to build. With the great effort of the minibrigades, we should also finish them by 31 December. There is a preuniversity program, which you have already explained. The first one was just finished by the minibrigades.

We also have a program for new types of secondary and primary schools. This year we finished the first new type of primary school. Next year, we expect to build five [corrects himself] eight of each of these kinds of schools.

In reference to the bakery program, we built 15 bakeries last year. This year we will build 20 until we fulfill the program goal of 100 bakeries. We expect to build 20 bakeries next year, in addition to starting a few others.

Regarding housing, last year we finished 7,000 apartments. This year we planned to build 13,000, but we were not able to meet that goal because of a problem of resources, which you are familiar with. We are doing everything we can to finish 10,000. Nevertheless, we are preparing because we think that next year we should finish no less than 15,000 or 17,000 apartments so that by the year 1991 we can reach the goal of 20,000 apartments a year. This would allow us to build 100,000 apartments in 5 years, which would solve the great need for housing in the capital. We would build apartments at a rate of about 25,000 a year.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] You do not take the actual number into account?

[Lezcano] No, that number is very small.

[Castro] It is very little?

[Lezcano] It is about 500 and we do not have the capacity for that here.

One of the serious situations we had in the capital—and it still continues to be very tense—is the problem of urban transportation. The Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers approved a program with an integral concept of confronting the problem of urban bus transportation, including the problem of attention to man in the sector, including a reformulation and reorganization of salaries and of work methods, including the elimination of the idled worker, the so-called [word indistinct] in this sector, as well as the construction of new terminals. The number of trips has been consolidated, about 29,000. We had many problems. It was very frustrating. We have now implemented 24,000 trips. It was a great crisis in the city. We are consolidating 29,000. The concept of reinforcing our transportation with route buses has also helped us a lot. We now have 199 of these buses out of a program of 300.

[Castro] Are these the Giron-6 buses? It is not the best bus for this purpose. It uses a lot of fuel, gasoline. It wastes gasoline. It has certain problems with the engine. During the first stage, it made at least 103 stops on each route and the bus deteriorated rapidly.

We are going to test an (Osil) bus. The route buses will be vehicles that use oil for fuel [camion de petroleo]. Some of them use more fuel than others. We are preparing 10 for testing. We want to have a basic group of these and in the future we will not increase the other buses as much. Instead, we will increase the route buses. They are costly. [pounds on table once] They cost 40 centavos for a bus ride. When the first ones became operational, we heard the same complaint: They are too expensive. They charge that amount and now they are well-received by the population, 40 centavos and all. Next year, however, we plan to build 200 Cuban buses. We want to see if by 1991 we can build 500 from our own automotive industry. We have estimated the cost of each one.

[Lezcano] Another serious problem in the city was—and is—the situation of the telephones. We are now assembling two new plants, one in [word indistinct] with 4,000 lines and the other in Plaza Municipality with 11,000 lines. By the years 1990 and 1991, we plan to install 122,000 new lines and construct and remodel 10 other plants, as well as repair others. By 1993, we should be able to install 100,000 new lines with....

[Castro, interrupting] That will be on top of the 122,000?

[Lezcano] That will be in addition to the 122,000. This will improve the phone situation considerably.

[Castro] [Words indistinct].

[Lezcano] Yes, of course.

[Castro] We have also purchased a factory to manufacture telephone cable at a cost of $14 million. The telephone cable factory should produce double the amount of cable wire than what the country imported. In dollars, the country imported $30 million every 5 years. Today that would cost $70 million. Because we have the factory, the scrap metal from the copper we collect, and the copper that we get from the USSR in the form of cathodes—which is not the quality we need for telephone lines—we have purchased a foundry for $6 million that can use the scraps of copper and the Soviet cathodes to manufacture the wire copper needed by the factory we are building in San Jose de Las Lajas, which Lemus [not further identified] mentioned yesterday. We will considerably improve the capital's telephone system this way.

[Lezcano] I should mention now that for the first time in 30 years in the capital, we are building avenues.

[Castro] What are you building?

[Lezcano] We are building roads. We finished 25th and expanded 20th Avenues, which was a good solution for that part of the city. We are constructing the 20 km East-West Highway. Eight km of this is already open to traffic, although the road is not finished. We are working on the Coast-to-Coast Highway, a 43-km road. This year we should finish the first 4 km of that road. Work is also being done at the intersection of 100th Street and Boyeros, which will be a good solution to the traffic problem in that area of the capital which is a big [words indistinct] for all transportation. In addition, it will give a very pretty look to the city.

We have other programs called quality-of-life projects for the population. They comprise a formidable plan for the population's recreation, culture, and rest. This includes the national zoo, which we should finish in 1991; the botanical garden, which we should finish in 1990; the aquarium, which we should finish in early January; and the metropolitan park. The projects are in progress and work is being done on two installations for the Pan-American Games. There is also a program for aqueducts and sewers, which is another vital need of the

population. We are working with machinery from the GDR that allows us to repair the pipes without having to tear up the street.

Speaking of roads, I should mention that ideas for resolving two other serious problems in the city are very advanced. This pertains to the problem of water drainage, the repair of potholes, and road maintenance.

[Castro] The roads are affected by everything in Havana City. There are some brigades, enterprises that build roads. However, since most of Havana was built by adding to Boyeros, Guanabacoa, Marianao, La Lisa, Cotorro, San Miguel del Padron, all those peripheral areas—it turns out that many of those peripherial areas don't even have roads—we have to build roads. We need to create a work force that will build roads. Because transportation—thousands travel by bus—suffers tremendously when the roads are full of potholes. We are making an effort to build roads and another effort to repair them, at least the potholes [pounds table 3 times] because there are some streets that need to be completely torn up and reconstructed.

Gentlemen, in Havana, we repair 50,000 gutters a year. Seeing how they affect the road, we discovered that the gutters break up many streets. We plan to organize several brigades. They will be equipped and small. The little brigades that repair potholes will need the truck, compressor, and the manual jackhammer which they will carry in the truck and unload. The brigades that repair the gutters need a compressor because they have to break up the street.

You can't imagine, friends, the amount of water that is thrown out in Havana. For example, comrade from San Miguel del Padron, how many gutters are repaired every year in your area?

[Balbino Fole Garcia, PCC first secretary of San Miguel del Padron Municipality] About 4,000 gutters are repaired a year.

[Castro] That is just in San Miguel del Padron. So we have....

[Fole Garcia, interrupting] With the work force that we have in the municipality, we estimate that we repair an average of 2,000 [as heard] gutters.

[Ricardo Penalver, PCC first secretary of Arroyo Naranjo Municipality] Comrade Commander, comrades: We want to explain two programs for our municipality—which is one of the municipalities with the largest population in the capital with close to 200,000 residents—which were developed to confront a serious group of problems, including a large accumulation of unhealthy neighborhoods. There were 8 unhealthy neighborhoods and 12 [words indistinct] which affect more than 18,000 people. During 198....

[Castro, interrupting] The unhealthy neighborhoods comprise about one-third of the area then, right?

[Penalver] Yes, and 12 percent of the population of the capital.

[Castro] Of the 18,000 people, how many of them are from the eastern provinces?

[Penalver] There are now 1,171 comrades from the eastern provinces included among the 3,245 minibrigade members. They are primarily in social minibrigades. This....

[Castro, interrupting] And the others are descendants of people from the eastern provinces, right? [laughter]

[Penalver] I explained that there is an interesting program in the municipality which has helped solved public health problems. I would like to stress that our infant mortality rate last year was 10.5 percent. We now have a rate of 9.68 percent.

[Castro] It did not [words indistinct]?

[Penalver] Yes, yes. We now have a rate of 9.68 percent....

[Castro, interrupting] You are under 10 percent?

[Penalver] Yes, we are. At the close of November, we were at 9.68 percent.

[Castro] [Words indistinct].

[Penalver] It is at 9.68 percent.

[Castro] That's .68? [laughter]

[Penalver] Yes, .68? We think that....

[Castro, interrupting] The rate fell with 18,000 people in unhealthy neighborhoods?

[Lezcano] Yes, it did. This year, we plan to be below last year's average infant mortality rate, below 10 percent, if we do not have any deaths. Every effort is being made in this regard.

[Castro] The programs are being implemented throughout the provinces. You know we started here. We started in 1987, right? That is when the movement began for the construction of child care centers. It was in 1987, right? [Fifth unidentified speaker answers: Yes, it began in 1987 in Havana.]

It began in 1987 in Havana. In 1988, it began throughout the rest of the country. Havana had a year's advantage. It had the advantage of the resurgence of the minibrigade movement and the development of social programs.

You've seen the momentum that the materials industry has gained. We will continue promoting it to build at least 100,000 apartments a year and to construct all the circles that we need and all the special schools, vocational schools, adequate primary schools like the ones we have begun in Havana, secondary schools, social development, and the construction of markets, stores, bakeries, all social projects. It is because of this that very

important projects are being fulfilled. We have a social program. Who is it for? It is for the people! All this social development is for the people. The food development is all for the people. All the social development is for the people.

[Unidentified announcer] During the last and third day of the meeting, the participants analyzed in depth the party's role as the rectifying force for the country's total development.

[Castro] How closely is our PCC linked to the masses there?

[Name indistinct, PCC first secretary of Minas de Matahambre municipality] It is good there, commander. We have applied dialogue a lot with the masses. We talk to them, hear them. We don't just talk. If a collective of workers wants to talk to us, we go and listen to their viewpoint and not try to impose our own. We go to listen, and we pass the results on to the members of the executive bureau and the other PCC cadres and instructors. When there is a collective of workers that has an opinion, even though we may not think it is correct, we listen to him, and then try to convince him. We argue to convince him.

[Castro] Well, those are very important things. We have not spoken of this, but it is also part of the party's role. Our role is to guide the people. It is not just a matter of construction. We have not mentioned that we are meeting here primarily to discuss matters of daily living, the economy, and the problems that we need to resolve, but these things are very important.

You are not only responsible for what happens there, you are the maximum political authority there. It is not that you will manage the contingent there but you must provide incentive, see how they work, stimulate them in their jobs. You have to criticize them when they are not working correctly. You have that responsibility but, above all, you have a political responsibility for what happens there because that is what the party does. That is what the party is for. That is what we are interested in. You might be a party secretary in a province, but the things a party secretary does in a municipality is very important because if there is a war here.... [changes thought].

Let me ask you a question. If this country is invaded one day or if there is a special situation of a total blockade, what would the country do without you? The role of the party is very important at a time like that.

How is your participation in defense activities?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] It is very good. We have....

[Castro, interrupting] Do you feel capable of defending that municipality?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Without a doubt, there....

[Castro, interrupting] Even though you might lose contact with the capital, even though the capital might disappear?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Commander, that principle....

[Castro, interrupting] Do you think that the party there, the nucleus of communists, of youths, workers, the people will continue to fight?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Commander, that is the fundamental principle that the municipal defense council has and not in the municipality [as heard]. If communications did not exist with an area defense zone, they would maintain the armed struggle, as has been established.

[Castro] Tell me how many weapons you have, even though it is a secret. Tell me here, just between us.

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] We have a complete set of weapons.

[Castro] How many weapons do you have?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] We have 10,600 rifles.

[Castro] Rifles?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Yes.

[Castro] Have you read in the paper about what is going on in El Salvador?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Yes.

[Castro] Have you seen what a few thousand people can do against those who have an entire army?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Yes.

[Castro] Would you be able to do the same thing in a war?

[Minas de Mahtamhbre secretary] Yes, Commander.

[Announcer] In making his closing remarks, the commander in chief stressed the significance, importance, and factors that motivated the tribute that more than 7,000 Cubans paid to internationalist heroes.

[Castro] The 7 December program was political. The 7 December program was not a plan to strengthen my own political revolution. The 7 December ceremony was a basic duty to our fallen comrades. It was an act of respect, of consideration to them and their families. It was a bitter responsibility, but we faced it decidedly, bravely. We brought the remains of our comrades, and we buried them. We said how many had died, regardless of what the enemy said. We even discussed the date several times. We were going to hold it on the anniversary of Che's death but the proper conditions did not exist. We finally chose the best day possible. The ceremony was an act of revolutionary reaffirmation. It was an act of high [word indistinct]. It was profound,

moving. [Words indistinct] in our country. That was not the purpose, but in the fulfillment of duty, this unprogrammed phenomenon occurred. It was not planned; it was not our goal to create a very profound impact on the people, to multiply the internationalist spirit and the revolutionary spirit of our people.

I think that 7 December was a truly incredible act. I do not think that any of us ever lived through a more moving time in our lives. I also do not think there has ever been a more glorious time. Seven million people participated in the funerals. The entire country worked on it.

I think that the significance of 7 December multiplied with the [word indistinct] and affection of the people. It was perfectly organized. Everyone participated in it. People were in uniform. Musical groups were organized. Ceremonial companies were organized everywhere. Something truly great happened, and I think that people have been affected by what they saw. I think that television reflected this. I think that a magnificent political moment has been attained, an excellent revolutionary moment, amid all these problems and difficulties. I think that we have to take advantage of it. I think that we have to work better on it. I think that each cadre and member of the party must be multiplied. I think that we have to work with more dedication in every corner of the country and if everyone does a lot or tries to do a lot every day or thinks he does, then it's time to do more. It is the time to express the ties with the masses, of raising the combat morale, of conveying that spirit to each secretary of the nucleus of the party, to each cadre of the party at all levels, to each member. We must convey the spirit of this moment. We must make everyone aware. I think we clearly must find this now more than ever. I think that now, more than ever, we must combat negative trends, deviations, privilege, whatever. This is the time. I would say that this is the best time from a moral point of view. This is the time we must follow the citizen, ask the citizen, worker, revolutionary, member to have confidence in the party, confidence in the party [repeats himself]. We have a contingent, a legion of people experienced in the fight, in combat, who know what they are doing. [pounds on table seven times]. They are people who have never betrayed and will never betray the people. [pounds on table twice] They are people who have fought and will always fight alongside the people. They are people who are willing to die in the first ranks along with the people. [applause] We must say that [words indistinct]. [applause].

I only have two slogans left to say: Socialism or death! Fatherland or death, we will win!

Castro Dedicates Five Construction Plants

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[Speech by President Fidel Castro during dedication ceremony of five construction material plants at the Major Jesus Raul Diaz Sosa Ceramic Factory in Managua, Havana City, on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: A few weeks ago we dedicated the Roberto Milian factory in San Miguel del Padron. That factory has several cement block production lines, which are also used to make roof blocks. The only difference between regular cement blocks and roof blocks is that different molds are used for the latter. Roof blocks are very similar to regular blocks, but they are used with other structural elements not only to build walls, but also roofs. I am looking at someone who does not know much about this. We should see if there is someone else around here. [laughter] [Passage indistinct] a factory of floor beams, which are light beams up to 7 meters long and which are used with the roof blocks to build roofs. Right? They are mainly used to build roofs?

[Unidentified speaker] It is used to build floors between the various levels of a building.

[Castro] Isn't that still a roof?

[Unidentified speaker] No.

[Castro] What is it then?

[Unidentified speaker] [words indistinct]

[Castro] I know the roof for one floor is the floor for the upper level. The roof of the last floor will be the final roof.

[Unidentified speaker] Of course.

[Castro] Of course.

[Unidentified speaker] The roof of the ground floor is the floor of the first floor.

[Castro] I could also build a one-story house with floor beams and roof blocks. How much do these people know about construction? [laughter]

The factory I mentioned earlier has roof block production lines, a floor beam production line, and three regular cement block production lines. Regular cement blocks are used to build walls. You should never use it to build roofs. [laughter] The factory also manufactures terrazzo tiles. I did not know much about this tile. I am going to tell you what it is because perhaps many of you do not know about it either. These tiles are used to make steps for stairs; they are made of granite and they look beautiful in buildings designed for social purposes. That factory produces 30,000 square meters of terrazzo tiles per year. A mosaic tile factory is now under construction and should be completed soon.

That is the first construction material industry that has become an industrial contingent and it is working perfectly well. This movement was started virtually spontaneously by the workers themselves. They were working in two shifts, with many interruptions, and they had a scanty work force. Thus, they began to prolong their working hours and they began to follow the contingent work style. These are quite mechanized and automated factories.

We were watching today some of these cement block production lines and we noted that all the worker needs to do is just to check and to observe the entire proccess. Everything is automatically run, it is just a matter of pushing buttons. Thus, [words indistinct] right now I can see each cement block production line is already working almost as a contingent, almost all of them in cement block production lines. This work does not require a physical effort, but it causes tension because the worker must pay attention, and there is noise caused by the machines. I was asking if there should not be some protection against the noise. I was told that that is a standard rule, but the workers should also be able to listen to the noises because a small sound could alert them to a malfunction.

Well, a few weeks have elapsed since the dedication of that factory where the first contingent was created. Today, we just dedicated five new factories. We could say five new [rephrases] several of them are industrial complexes because they produce several items. The first factory we dedicated is located in La Lisa, near Punta Brava. It consists of three very modern cement block production lines, of the type I mentioned earlier. How many mosaic production lines does it have? So, it has two mosaic production lines. That industrial complex is already in operation.

In (Bajeda), near the highway going east, toward Banado, toward Habana del Este—virtually across from Habana del Este, in a valley to the right—we dedicated a factory, that is, not an industrial complex, of two mosaic production lines. This factory will produce mosaic.

The third factory we dedicated is located in Guanabacoa. This factory also has two mosaic production lines. It also has a cement coating paint. The construction of three cement block production lines is also under way there. This is the type of project we will seek to complete by 26 July. Today, we were discussing the need to build there a floor beam production line similar to the one built in San Miguel del Padron. It seems as though we will be needing larger quantities of floor beams than what we are producing now, because the builders say that in maintenance and reconstruction work [passage indistinct]. We have an expert in this field. Maximo. You know about this, Maximo. Why don't you come over here and help me explain the importance of the floor beam production lines?

[Speaker, identified only as Maximo] Commander, we were saying that in the first place because....

[Castro, interrupting] For instance, there is an old building.

[Maximo] An old building?

[Castro] In Habana Vieja or Centro Habana Vieja.

[Maximo] In any of those places, a four-story building. If we are going to repair any of those buildings we will have to demolish the floors. Thus, the basic structure of the building may be left untouched. The buildings of Habana Vieja have a trademark. They are old buildings that are supported by floor beams and [word indistinct] but which are made of lumber. The lumber generally rots [passage indistinct]. When one is going to rebuild this type of building [passage indistinct].

[Castro] You frame what?

[Maximo] We frame [words indistinct] where the floors were earlier and we secure a board against the walls. This is what we do today. In those cases where...

[Castro, interrupting] So, that takes a lot of lumber.

[Maximo] Yes, it takes a lot of lumber and a lot of work as well because it is very difficult to do a melting job in those areas. In general, we have to cupola-melt in those cases. If we are trying to repair a monument, what do we do? We also use lumber. If we have some hardwood lumber, we would just replace the damaged part or build some concrete beams that we finish in such a way that they look as though they are made of wood. We do it the old way, but we use cement, which also takes a lot of work because we have to melt the sheet right there. In addition to taking a lot of lumber, this is a very difficult job. We have to make a great effort to do this.

When we are using beams, what we do is stick the beams into the walls, we lay the roof blocks, and then we melt the coating.

[Castro] You put the beam first.

[Maximo] We put the beam...

[Castro, interrupting] Then you lay the roof blocks.

[Maximo] Then, we lay the roof blocks, and then we melt the sheet and then the coating is ready. We really save ourselves a lot of work and we save....

[Castro, interrupting] How much lumber [words indistinct]?

[Maximo] Well, commander, I cannot give you overall figures....

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] 50 percent or 80 percent.

[Maximo] No, commander....

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] percent of the lumber that is needed to do a melting job there.

[Maximo] In this case, we use lumber only to support the beam. These pieces of lumber are removed later and can be used again. They are fully recovered. It is not the same when you are chipping a concrete structure and supporting it with lumber, in that case you lose a fair amount of lumber. These pieces of lumber can be used 5, 6, 7, 10 or 15 times, depending on how you use them. You will always, however, be losing a percentage of it.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] but you also use them for new buildings.

[Maximo] For new buildings.

[Castro] You are also saving lumber in those cases.

[Maximo] Yes, and they may also be used in any type of social project.

[Castro] In any type of social project?

[Maximo] Especially in those nontypical buildings.

[Castro] And you do not have to use cranes.

[Maximo] Besides, we do not have to use cranes when we use beams and roof blocks.

[Castro] Thus, we have only one plant that can produce the equivalent of 1,000 km.

[Maximo] Around 1,000 km.

[Castro] Beams are measured in kilometers.

[Maximo] That will be enough to build 7,000 or 8,000 houses.

[Castro] 7,000 or 8,000 houses? Let us assume that we use it to build new houses. We will need it more, however, to repair buildings.

[Maximo] We will need it to repair buildings and to build social projects. We have built a number of day care centers with beams and roof blocks, as well as bakeries....

[Castro, interrupting] Also with beams?

[Maximo] Also with beams.

[Castro] It is also more productive....

[Maximo, interrupting] It is, of course, much more productive than using lumber....

[Castro, interrupting] And it allows you to save all the lumber that was needed to prepare for the melting job.

[Maximo] And it allows us to save all the lumber we used to need for the melting job. Thus, it is truly an advanced method that allows us to make savings and that makes our job easier. It also improves the workers' productivity.

[Castro] Yes. We now must increase production. We have a large quantity of regular blocks, and what we ought to do is just change the molds and produce roof blocks instead of regular blocks.

I was saying that we are going to build another factory of roof blocks there in Guanabacoa so that we may have a production capability of at least 2,000 km. Thus, this technique is very useful and advantageous, as Comrade Maximo was explaining here. We have also sent beams and roof blocks to Varadero, where we are building (?towers). [passage indistinct].

We were already talking with the ministry about the need to purchase a second production line and, when this one arrives, we should purchase a third one. We must turn to those things that will be more instrumental in solving our problems. Well, that was one of the factories dedicated today.

Then, we dedicated the Las Guasimas industrial complex, which consists of two mosaic production lines and of three regular cement block production lines. This is an industrial complex. Is there something else there? It already has the cement coating factory. This is something we are all beginning to know about. It is based on white cement and other products. It lasts a long time. In our country, paint coatings do not last a long time due to humidity and nitrate, especially in Havana City. Thus, it is very useful for us to have cement coating. We can use cement coatings to paint many buildings, especially the new ones. To use it with the old buildings we must first scrape off the old paint. We can also use cement coating to paint prefabricated panels.

We are going to have the necessary raw materials to make the cement coating, at least the most important one, because it requires other ingredients in small supplies. I am referring to the white cement factory that started to operate a few months ago in Siboney, which can produce 100,000 tons of white cement. By 31 December, they expect to produce 25,000 or 30,000 tons—that is, in just a few months. For next year, they plan to produce 50,000 or 60,000 tons, but I am sure that if it became necessary, they could produce more than that. We are going to have some surplus of white cement, which we could export if we do not need it.

Our construction materials industry is not designed to promote exports, but to meet our needs. White cement is used to make floor tiles, mosaic tiles, sanitary ware, bathroom tiles. It is used for a variety of things. The cost of white cement on the international market ranges from $110 to $120 or $130 per ton plus freight costs. Thus, a white cement plant capable of producing 100,000 tons entails a production that will cost more than $10 million if we were to import this quantity.

We also receive some white cement from the socialist bloc. The quality of white cement is determined by [words indistinct], which is measured in grades. The technology used in the plant we bought [changes thought] and the raw material used there still has a little kaolin, some yeast, but it was (?87) percent pure, what do we call this? Yes, of whiteness. This is already a high

percentage. Thus, our cement already has good quality, but we expect to reach 90 percent, and when we reach this percentage our cement will be among the highest quality cement in the world. Thus, we will have every raw material we need to produce cement coating.

Now, we are building this cement factory, which is one of the most modern ones in the country. Nearly all the cement was produced [corrects himself] no, it is not cement; but bricks. Nearly all the bricks produced in the country were manufactured in makeshift ovens, in which it was very difficult to have good quality and which required great sacrifice from the workers. This does not mean that we are going to close down those makeshift ovens. We are improving them. We are improving working conditions there. We cannot afford to close anything at this time. We must continue to use the bricks we were producing, as well as the new ones we are now going to produce.

This plant can produce 30 million bricks of all types per year. These will be good quality bricks. The quality of bricks does not depend on the facilities alone but also on the raw material. On this side here we have the raw material which is of excellent quality. For instance, the clay of Sancti Spiritus, the clay of Pinar del Rio, the clay of San Cristobal—where a roof tile factory is being built—are among those having the best quality.

We have a large reserve of minerals and we can bring clay from other areas. I believe that [words indistinct] 25 or 35 percent of the clay that you can see there and which is redder, to mix it with the clay available here and thus seek to produce a good quality brick. We cannot expect to produce brick of excellent quality, as we could get with other types of clay, but at least of good quality, of the quality we need.

These five brand new factories, plus the one we dedicated earlier, have brought to six the number of factories built in record time. As you know, our headache, as we resuscitated the mini-brigades, was to provide construction materials—all that is needed to boost construction. A few years ago, we could not build because we did not have a work force. Now we have resolved the work force problem through the various types of minibrigades: Of factories, of work centers, social minibrigades like the ones organized in this area, like the one we have in the Las Guasimas township—I should say the city of Las Guasimas because it is going in that direction. With the overall work force represented by the 38,000 minibrigades, we can not only build, but also engage in repair work. These minibrigades consist primarily of workers but also of housewives who have joined this effort in certain areas, especially minibrigades engaged in social projects. Youths who were neither studying nor working have also joined this work force. Thus, we have a tremendous work force in the construction sector in the capital—and we could have more if we want to.

Even industrial minibrigades, such as those of the Ministry of the Steelworking Industry, have been created. Thousands of workers of various industries are building facilities such as dining rooms, administrative-social buildings, lockers for the workers, that is, these and some enlargement work designed to improve conditions.

We have an enourmous work force and our headache was to obtain construction materials. Then, we set out to obtain the materials we needed and to take whatever action that might become necessary to do so. In a little over 2 years, we have invested almost... [rephrases] In 2 and ½ years we have invested dozens of millions of dollars in industrial lines for the production of construction materials. We had to purchase all the equipment from Western countries. We used to obtain them from socialist countries, but they were urgently needed and we had no other way of getting them but by using convertible currency. Thus, we have bought dozens and dozens of lines. I believe that in the city of Havana alone we had 51 lines, city and province included, of course. To this we must add dozens and dozens of lines established in the provinces. We have bought them and have installed them at full speed.

I remember that we completed our first day care center plan with what we had. We said then that we were going to resolve this problem. There are, of course, problems that are more easily solved than others. To buy and to install a cement block production line is not so difficult. The line is neither very expensive nor is it very difficult to build the facility for it. This is not (?like building) a cement factory. We had a large capability for producing cement. We had created those conditions. Yet, during those years in which construction declined—I am not going to repeat to you other things here—maintenance of cement factories also declined and they started to lose their capability. Thus, when this construction movement started, our cement production was at around 3.2 million [words indistinct].

It has increased during these years to 3.4, to 3.5, to around 3.7 this year, that is, 3,750,000 tons. Thus, our production of cement has increased by more than half a million tons. We have designed plans to restore the capabilities we have lost, that is, to rebuild some of our industries. We have also formulated plans to build new cement production lines. We wanted to locate them, in the first place, in the eastern provinces, in the area of Holguin. The eastern provinces—which in the past we knew only by the name of the eastern region, and where more than 40 percent of the Cuban population reside—had only one cement factory, the one located in Santiago de Cuba, which was somewhat enlarged during the early years of the revolution.

A cement factory should, of course, be built in an area where the raw material needed is available. It cannot be built anywhere but in an area where adequate raw material is readily available. One of the first factories built by the revolution was the one in Siboney. There is a good supply of raw material in the central region of the country. That is where we are also producing white

cement. Another important factory is located in Cienfuegos, where there is also a port. A factory was built there not far from the port. It is a large factory that was built jointly with the GDR.

Then, we enlarged the Mariel factory, which was built with Spanish technology. We also enlarged the Artemisa factory with French-made equipment. Thus, in theory, we were capable of producing around 5 million tons, perhaps a little more. But, the truth is that when we started to force production by these factories, they began to have problems of all kinds. According to calculations made 3 years ago, we should produce 5.4 million by 1990. We were not going to reach this goal because our industrial facilities were not prepared for it. [Words indistinct] we have to make a great effort regarding cement. We asked workers, we gave them some support, equipment, and reached the figure of 3,750,000 tons. We also decided to invest $15 million in remodeling the Mariel cement factory, which was producing between 130,000 and 150,000 tons with many problems, to make it produce 1,200,000 or to 1,250,000 tons, that is, to increase its production capability by 400,000 tons.

For next year, 1990, we are planning to produce 3.9 million tons with what we have. That is to say, 150,000 more tons than this year. The production capacity for 1991 looks even better, because by mid-year, by the second semester of next year, when we have all the equipment and materials there, we will proceed into two phases: The expansion and the reconstruction of Mariel. We will try to make sure this will not take more than 2 months to do, because every month the plant is not in operation, approximately 70,000 tons of cement is not produced. Every month that the [word indistinct] is not operating, we loose that amount. Naturally, as soon as the new equipment is installed, it will be expanded and remodeled and it will have an additional capacity for production. That is why by 1991, we will have an additional production capacity of 400,000 tons of cement.

I will explain to you why I am giving you these figures. [passage indistinct] Naturally, the new lines of production that were going to be installed were: One in Santiago de Cuba, two in Holguin, and possibly one more in Artemisa and one more in Ciguaney. We were negotiating all this. We had made a lot of progress. We had negotiated two lines with the GDR. We were negotiating other lines with the CSSR. We were negotiating another one with Romania. There were at least four, four to five lines we were negotiating. Now there have been a lot of changes in those countries. No one can have the certainty that [words indistinct] the possibilities for negotiating those lines. So, the cement production plans we had carefully elaborated, now we have these [word indistinct]. However, we will have the cement; that is the good thing. We will have 150,000 more tons in 1990 and approximately 300,000 or 400,000 more tons in 1991.

We will have to work at the Carlos Marx plant, which already has a high production level, and it is estimated that it will produce 1,170,000 tons. The enterprise has already made a great effort this year to try fulfill and overfulfill its plan this year. [Words indistinct] but the production capacity of that plant, if you provide it everything it needs—all the appropriate parts and if some repairs were done there—it could produce 300,000 more tons. Maybe (?our) country could supply [word indistinct] the plant. However, we are also looking into what other country could supply it if our country cannot do it, even if it means spending convertible currency. We are examining this. We are also examining the possibility of our country producing other parts that factory may need so that it can produce approximately 1.5 million tons of cement. That is another path for quickly obtaining cement. This would mean an additional 700,000 tons between 1991 and 1992.

Naturally, we have also given the steelworking industry the task of producing the first line of cement built in Cuba. We already build our own sugarcane plants, we build over 60 percent of the plant. We built the [words indistinct]. We even build boilers. One always has to buy an electric generator of a certain size, a certain number of engines to move the [word indistinct]. We have built several sugarcane plants that have been working perfectly well from the very first year. We are building rolling mills to produce reinforcement rods, like the two that we have built in Las Tunas. Those are also complex machines. We have even partially built the continuous [word indistinct] machines which we are being inaugurated in the old workshop of Antillana. If we can do all this, there is no doubt that our steelworking industry with a certain amount of support, with the acquisition of some larger furnaces—because some of the larger ones they have are for 12 tons, and when they have to melt a 17 or 18 ton piece they have to use two furnaces which is very complex, difficult... [does not complete previous sentence] We were thinking about installing some 24 ton furnaces. We have good lathes for those pieces. [Word indistinct] each time a greater number of automatic lathes. Our country can already produce the plans for automatic lathes, it produces some of the parts for an automatic lathes. If it can already produce parts of this type, what it needs now is steel and machines to work the steel.

We will always have to buy something. One country cannot produce everything. It always has to buy engines of one type or another. However, the basic parts for a factory can be built by the country. Maybe one of the small advantages [words indistinct] is to give an impetus to the development of country's industries. A line of cement of that type costs no less than 50 or $60 million. Even if we have to acquire some things, we can maybe make our own cement line (?for) 20 percent or so less than what a complete cement line costs.

I have spoken about the great importance of cement. How have we managed? How is it that construction has grown so much in the past 2 years? [passage indistinct] Why will it grow again by approximately 250 million

more next year, despite the fact that our cement production will only be 150,000 tons more? It is simply a matter of economizing cement. In economizing cement, two or three lines are (?involved). Now we have to [words indistinct]. We used to waste cement in an incredible manner. There were projects that used over 700 kg per cubic meter of concrete. We do not even know how much cement was used in 1985. Some of our figures show that it was higher than 700 kg. This year, the Ministry of Construction [MICONS] has used less than 450 kg per cubic meter of concrete. Concrete uses a certain amount of cement, stone, sand, and water. This year the MICONS has used less than 450 kg, and by next year it plans to reduce it to 400 kg or less. Cement is very important, and not just the amounts but the type and quality of cement it is. [Words indistinct] for stronger more resistant constructions. There are some constructions that have to be done with P-250 cement and not P-350, so different types of cement are used accordingly. When the factory produces another type of cement, it can produce more cement. In other words, it is very important to use the right amount and type of cement. We are making progress in that area. The MICONS was one of the organizations that economized the most this year.

We are working with all the construction organizations to reduce the consumption of cement. We are working with the construction workers of the people's government, with the minibrigades, sugar industry, basic industry, Ministry of Agriculture—everyone builds here. We are also planning to save an additional 150,000 tons of cement with a great effort; these would be additional tons to the ones we have already saved this year. If we attain a production of an additional 150,000 tons, and if we economize another 150,000 tons elsewhere, that equals 300,000 tons of cement available.

There is another area in which we can economize. We have already started working in that area. Naturally, it is not as pressing. It is the area of projects with exaggerated standards. In the past few years we made the mistake of using standards that are not adequate to our conditions. They were exaggerated standards which required the use of huge amounts of cement in the foundations of the plants. So, by working the way we are doing now and by trying to economize the way we do now, we can save a lot of cement. Some of the comrades at the Ministry of the Sugar Industry have done studies which show that 30 percent cement can be saved in building a sugar plant. We are also building a large dam at the Cauto River. According to the plan, which was formulated abroad, 250,000 cubic meters of concrete would be needed to build an underground wall. Our technicians studied the matter carefully and they reached the conclusion that building the wall has nothing to do with the strength of the dam, but rather with the nature of the land. They said the wall can be built with 100,000 cubic meters and not with 250,000 cubic meters of concrete. Now you see how, by putting some thought into it, any project can economize cement.

A comrade from Artemisa spoke at the National Assembly. He wanted to install a light pole. He needed to do the foundation. The technician who was distributing the cement told him he needed 44 sacks of cement. Then, I do not know what the man from Artemisa did. He looked into it, he researched it well. He was able to solve the problem with half the cement they were recommending for the installation of the light pole. Some examples have been given to show how much cement can be saved in the [word indistinct] plans. Naturally, if a construction worker is told that a 20,000 cubic meter foundation must be built, he uses what the plan stipulates. However, it may be possible to do it with 10,000. At the Antillana expansion, the plans stipulated exaggerated the amounts of cement. The planners have gradually decreased the amounts. This is another way of economizing of cement. There were approximately two or three lines in the economizing of cement. [sentence as heard]

If we want to continue increasing considerably constructions in the next few years, we will have to economize cement as well as wood, which is always a critical material. This year we had more constructions with less wood. Next year we will have 250 million pesos more worth of construction with less wood. We used to throw wood away—28 cubic meters of concrete per cubic meter of wood. Already this year we have raised it to more than 40, we plan to raise it to 100. We plan to increase the use of wood by 3, 4, and 5 times. We plan to preserve it with a sealing coat, with a raw material that is accessible and cheap. We plan to protect the edges with light metal (?lamination) to be able to use it 15, 20, 30 times. We plan to use it as (?panels) for foundations so they can be used many times. We used to use them only two or three times. I have seen panels made out of [word indistinct] that were given some protection and which have been used again in the construction of a market over there in the western part of the capital. They have been used over 20 times. Do you realize how wood can be saved? The amount of wood available in the country for construction does not increase. However, what can be increased many times is the use we make of that wood. So, we are working in this manner.

I also trust in our cement line. A lot of effort is already being made so we can have our first line with a capacity of 300,000 tons. We will see if by 1992 that line is already operating. We have 2 and ½ years to design it, build the equipment—and, while the equipment is being built in one area, in another it will be installed. We will be building the civil portion of that factory. We will build the Holguin factory. We will not give up the contracts we were working on, the negotiations that were moving along. However, this is what is certain, and there is nothing more certain than what we can do ourselves. If we have been capable of accomplishing others tasks, why should we not be able to do this? And I am certain that the steelworking industry will solve the problem. Right now they are working with a group of people dedicated to that task. As soon as we see that the first task is working

well, we will begin with our second and third ones. This country will not lack cement for any reason, if we do the expansion. I told you that we spent a full $15 million for the expansion of Mariel. We can also expand the Carl Marx, and we can do it by economizing in various areas. We can also increase production levels. This is how we plan to resolve this important problem of cement. There is no longer a problem with the reinforcement rods. Starting next year, the (IBC) [no further explanation given] at the old Antillana workshop will increase its steel production by 100,000 per year. By the end of 1990, we plan to finish the first [word indistinct] machine for the Antillana expansion.

Yesterday we met with the contingent that received its banner, which has almost 2,000 men and will work on the accelerated expansion of Antillana. Almost all the equipment is there.

It is now a matter of installing all that iron. That plant was going to produce 200,000 tons of steel. Now with the expansion it will produce 440,000 tons. It has approximately $8 million invested in technological equipment. This doubles the planned production level of the plant which [word indistinct] approximately $300 million. So, the huge plant will not produce more than double of what it was going to produce before. We told the workers of the Julio Antonio Mella contingent: Your task is to build this at full speed, with the speed and quality with which contingents build. This will increase our country's steel production to almost 1 million tons. This will be achieved with all the (IBC) that were installed at the old and new workshops.

Just think about the reinforcement rods we will also be saving, because when you save cement you also save reinforcement rods. Do not forget that it is not the same thing to use 20,000 cubic meters of cement than to use 10,000. You also save half the amount of reinforcement rods. The production level of Las Tunas will reach 300,000 tons of reinforcement rods and steel materials for construction. The Antillana industry will also produce materials for the mechanical industry. It will produce special types of steel, not just for construction. Antillana will also produce different types of steel for our mechanical industry, which is developing quickly.

These are three important elements: Cement, wood, and reinforcement rods. The rest [words indistinct] a very special effort is being made in production of floors, mosaics, tiles, walls, and others, floor firebricks, roofs, in addition to something we saw yesterday. It is called [word indistinct] cement. I do not know why it is called that. [words indistinct] I saw it. They made for us two separate small amounts of cement. One was this cement by Acevedo, who is the man who invented it. They put the cement in two little holes. They poured water in it, and the water just stayed there. It didn't go anywhere. They did the same thing with the traditional cement. They poured water on it, and in a matter of 1 minute, the cement soaked up all the water. This [word indistinct] cement, in addition to repelling water, can be kept in warehouses up to 2 years. This technique was invented there. We are testing it. It could help a lot in the building of roofs. It can be used for the roofs so they don't rot, because you know this is one of the most serious problems we have had. The various products we have used, considering our climate, have not given all the results we had hoped. In addition to this, we had the problems with those covers, we didn't have the necessary quality. Thus, we were forced to look at the noble and old kind of tile we had used in the past. Another consideration is the angle that each roof must have. There was a time here when the crazy idea of the flat roofs was used. Today, we have the old tiles and this new kind of cement for the roofs. [passage indistinct]

For example, how many cement blocks will we have in Havana? In comparison to the 11 million blocks that were produced when this plan was started, by the end of next year we will produce 55 million. This will have grown by 5 times. By next year, we will produce approximately 34 million. This year, we produced approximately 23 million. Production has grown here in Havana from 23 million blocks to 34 million next year. What was the brick production for this year? [Words indistinct] this plant now? The (?following) year it will be 57, it will surpass the brick production of 33 [words indistinct] to 57. Brick production will grow by 21 million units next year.

This will not be the only factory here. Right in front we will have Managua II, another factory for the production of 20 million bricks. Managua will produce [words indistinct]. How was this factory built?

We used Italian technology for the main equipment. The furnace is Cuban, which made it very economical. The Managua II will have Yugoslav technology. It will have some Italian equipment, and the furnace will also be Cuban. I have not told you yet that we are also building in San Cristobal a tile factory for supplying the needs of the capital. This is not counting another one which we are building in Marianao. [addressing someone in crowd] How many will the one in Mariano produce? It will produce 15 million. We are building the furnaces. In some cases we have bought them. But in order to save convertible currency, we are making the furnaces. [words indistinct] will be a result of the experience of three countries. The experience we are gaining allows us to look for formulas, economize our resources, and solve problems.

We will have a production of 30 million bricks next year, well, we cannot expect a new factory to actually produce the 30 million. Therefore, the increased production of bricks in the capital, with the repair of the old [word indistinct], will surpass 90 million when we built the other line. By 1991, we will have available more than 90 million bricks. What was our capacity? Forty-six million. We are increasing our brick production a lot, but not as much as [word indistict]. We have already finished tile factories, and we are finishing other ones. We have several lines of mosaics. [passage indistinct] I have not

told you yet, for example, that Marianao [words indistinct] will have three lines of blocks and three lines of mosaics. I have already told you that three lines of blocks will be in Guanabacoa—which will complete the 16 new lines of blocks. Each line can produce an estimated 3.2 million blocks. We will have 16 new blocks in addition to other ones we had, prior to using this plan. This will result in a production capacity of 55 million blocks. If we add the capacity for the production of blocks with the capacity of brick production, it would be enough to build the walls, and only the walls, of 50,000 housing units. Naturally, not all is for the walls of houses. If we need to build a bakery, we also need to build its walls. If we need to build a factory, or anything else, we also have to build its walls. The same holds true for a polyclinic, hospital, child care center, school, specialty market. Any construction needs the wall. However, not all constructions have [words indistinct]. The repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of a home uses a lot of materials. We have set the capital's plan for construction of homes at 20,000 per year. That is a minimum, it may be a little higher [words indistinct]. But we must carefully calculate how much material we will need in the reconstruction, remodeling, and repairing of the homes that we now have. That is something that was extensively discussed in a recent meeting of the party. It was discussed at the National Assembly of the People's Government. We are going to start working seriously and strongly in reconstruction, in reconstruction and rehabilitation. There are a lot of those housing units that have sprung up. We have already determined the minimum number of reconstructions we have to do. Now we have to study the number of units we can aspire to rebuild or rehabilitate per year. This is as important as the construction of the new homes. These calculations must be made. We must also keep in mind that we are not working just for the capital but also for the province, and the capital and the province add up to 2.7 million residents.

The construction of the new homes, as well as the repair of the current homes for Havana Province, must be done from those materials. Therefore, the walls for those 50,000 homes [words indistinct] must be divided and redistributed.

I am certain that the materials will not be enough. I was talking with comrade party secretary of Arroyo Naranjo, and he said that they will not be able to use all the bricks and tiles we will produce, but I told him I think we will use them all. In Arroyo Naranjo, if I am given a certain amount of material, I will do so much. It is not a small matter, right? To increase production from 11 million blocks to 55 million, and still it would not be enough. It seems truly inconceivable.

To this we must add another factor. We have not counted the walls [passage indistinct] more or less the same. The roof tiles will be enough for another 50,000 homes. [passage indistinct] We have also not taken into account the prefabricated homes. We have to add the thousands of homes that can be built with the prefabricated factories the capital has. Those homes do not need cement blocks nor bricks, other than what it needs for the inside walls.

Therefore, the capacity level for construction materials is very large. We do not have the exact figures. We bought lines to produce more materials than what we thought would be necessary. We did it just in case we ended up having an excess and not a shortage of production. But now we must continue keeping track [words indistinct]. Naturally, I am sure that if in Arroyo Naranjo they play a cornet, they would double or triple the number of people who are willing to build. I also did not mention other clients, those who may want to expand their homes, and those who may be able to build on their own. Therefore, you can imagine the clients that will need all those blocks and bricks for new houses, industries, social projects, rehabilitation or reconstruction of homes, independent constructions.

I think the capital does not have as much land as other cities in the country to build [word indistinct] houses. That cannot be done (?only) in other cities, otherwise we run the risk of building homes all the way to Batabano. [passage indistinct] We have to give priority to new homes. Many of the homes are for laborers, workers who do not have the means to build their own homes. However, there are a lot of families who can expand a room, or add another story. There are several families who can add more room, unlike what Pupi [not further identified] has done. Pupi was building all along the road. Pupi was building toward Havana, Managua, and then toward [word indistinct]. He was building good small homes, very pretty homes. But I told him: Concentrate, concentrate in one area. [crowd laughs] Concentrate like when you were a good pitcher and you wanted to [word indistinct] to a certain corner. [crowd laughs] [words indistinct] What we are doing now is more compact. Just imagine how far the homes go. They don't stop at the aqueduct. They go all the way here, and continue all the way up to San Antonio de las Vegas. [crowd laughs] Now, our constructions are more compact. We are building four and five story buildings. That is the only way we can escape the problem here in the capital of the republic.

However, we will have a lot of materials, equipment. The first thing we did when the minibrigades were used again was to build a crane factory which has been very useful. Therefore, like someone here said, we have very promising prospects at a time when the Third World is going through very difficult times. I have visited certain places and have seen constructions paralyzed. [words indistinct] We hear about the closing down of schools, hospitals, factories, [words indistinct] to resolve important problems efficiently and quickly.

During these 2 and ½ years we have been especially dedicated to finding a solution to these problems. I am not talking about agriculture and other tasks, but I am talking about these construction materials problems.

These construction materials are good for everything. They are used for economic as well as for social projects, whether they are for agriculture or industry.

We are also aware and have spoken about the various risks that threaten us. I will add nothing about this subject because I have already spoken about it. However, we are prepared. We are preparing ourselves for everything. If we have peace, estimate what we can do. [Words indistinct] great economic catastrophies resulting from certain problems that we are experiencing. Just imagine what we can do, if we have already learned to do so much with less. The example I gave you about the use of cement shows it. The example I gave you about the use of wood shows it. The minibrigades show it, because here, just in the capital we [word indistinct] build approximately 4,000 homes which can only be built with the bricks this factory produces. The walls for 4,000 houses can be built. They say they have 90 workers. That means that in this factory each worker will produce the necessary bricks for the walls for 40, 45, or 50 houses per year. Each worker here must say: I am producing enough for 50 houses. The same must be said by those who produce cement blocks and mosaic tiles.

Mosaic tile production is really hard work. We have visited several workshops, production lines and we have seen the women working. It is a hard job. They have a mold, material has to be added to it, and it has to be painted. They also have to frame it, put it in a press. Both the men and women are the ones who have to push on the press. However, it is interesting to watch how women also do it and they can still obtain the required standard. They have to press 90 pounds. [Words indistinct] they have to make a great effort. The production of mosaic tiles cannot be automated, mechanized. Machines for it do not exist. The production of mosaic tiles has been decreasing in the world. It has been substituted by practical products. However, mosaic tile continues being a good quality product for floors. Proof of this is that in the hotels that are under construction in Varadero, the construction workers prefer mosaic tile to regular tile. Frankly, mosaic tile is prettier. It is also said that mosaic tile keeps the temperature cooler. Chavez [not further identified] says it is cooler for our climate. So, the mosaic tile is preferred where good quality projects are being built. The planners prefer it. We have even seen the production of higher quality mosaic, like the kind that was produced at other times. It is the kind that used to be made with simple paints mixed in different tones, and not with designs. Naturally, this kind of mosaic tile lowers the productivity level; nevertheless, we have started producing higher quality mosaic tiles.

What we are now going to do in those factories is to make the work more humane. [Passage indistinct] light material to reduce the 92 pounds to 60 pounds. Studies are being done to see with which one they can solve the problem of the [words indistinct] to make all that work easier. There is a high number of women involved in that job. I believe that soon we are going to make all those innovations in all our mosaic tile lines so that the work of the operators can be more humane, easier. That kind of work is not mechanized anywhere in the world. It cannot be mechanized. It is not like producing blocks. It is admirable to watch how all that is done—to watch the pulleys and hoists work. The only thing the hoists do is to raise the blocks, because the machine leaves them already made. The hoists put the blocks on a little [word indistinct] wagon and takes them to an area where they dry for 24 hours. The whole process for the blocks is mechanized, and almost all that is automated. That cannot be done with the mosaic tiles.

Yet, it would be much [words indistinct] but it produces a high quality item. Thus, all those conditions have been created and I was telling you that we are prepared for everything, for everything. We are prepared to take major steps forward in the future. We are enthusiastically working to make this happen [words indistinct] major feats too in other fields. We are prepared to resist whatever might become necessary to resist. We are prepared to defend the fatherland. We are prepared for the projects we are now undertaking. We are prepared to defend the future we are building.

Yesterday was also a day on which we toured and dedicated projects, on which we presented banners to contingents. Today, we dedicated these factories. Tomorrow, we will dedicate polyclinics that are part of a program that is being completed as was originally conceived. On the 31st, we will also dedicate special education schools, which are also part of a program that is being completed as originally conceived. Our people are working everywhere and many of our countrymen are giving up Saturdays or Sundays [words indistinct] if the need arises.

We are not urging the people to make useless, unnecessary efforts. We urge them to make every effort that might be necessary. It is not always necessary that everyone be drilling wells. Some could be drilling wells while others could be having the day off. We are now approaching the year end celebrations. Tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of workers and their families go out; they go to restaurants, or elsewhere, but tens of thousands will also be working in those places to wait on them. [Words indistinct] tens of thousands will be working at the same time to provide these people with transportation; tens of thousands will also be working in hospitals to provide assistance to those who might need it at that time. Tens of thousands of people are working in 24-hour industries, in the sugar mills [words indistinct] there will be tens of thousands working at that time. There will be tens of thousands working at the thermoelectric plant so that we may have electricity, and there will be others who will be milking cows so that we can have milk the next morning. Others will be (?working at the pasteurizing plant) and delivering the milk.

This is life. While some have the chance to have fun, to have a good time, others will have to be working for them. This is how life should always go. This is why not everyone can be off to have a good time by midnight.

Those working will, however, also have a good time by serving others. This is important and we can see it in the contingents, how happy they are when they complete a project.

Yesterday we dedicated a bus terminal there near the 100th Street and Boyeros. They built this project saving a lot of materials. They also used some metal items. Yet, they were able to build about 180 cubic meters of concrete for each cubic meter of lumber. Besides, they used only 380 kg of cement per cubic meter of concrete. Look at all that can be done. They built a high quality project. I see how happy they are when they see their project completed. Those countrymen serving others will also be happy at that time. The only thing is that they will not rest on the 31st, but they will surely rest on the 1st.

Today, our people are working with great spirit, with great dedication. We saw this yesterday at the youth rally. We have seen this in recent days during the funeral of our comrades fallen in internationalist missions; we have seen it outside the embassy [corrects himself] the interests office of imperialism; we have seen it everywhere. Therefore, I would say that this is a year-end of revolutionary reaffirmation, of work, and of optimism.

We will continue to move forward in this way, fulfilling our programs, giving a greater impulse to our country. Since we have just mentioned internationalism, it is proper to note that this extremely modern brick factory—which will be even more modern when we make the loading process automated—bears the name of an internationalist comrade who fell in the line of duty: Major Jesus Raul Diaz Sosa. This is the name of the factory. I don't know if you already [words indistinct]. [applause]

Forgive me, comrades, because tonight is still a bit chilly—although we should not complain about the cold weather because it helps our sugarcane yield—and I have spoken a little long, but, since we spent the afternoon touring these industrial projects, I wanted to explain to you, to the journalists, and to the people—if this speech is broadcast over television, the meaning of all these projects dedicated today.

Socialism or death, fatherland or death. We shall win! [applause]

Havana Workers Discuss CTC Congress Report

FL0901171890

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0200 GMT 9 January carries its 56-minute "Agenda Abierta" program entitled "Doing More With Less" consisting of a round table composed of Havana City Province delegates discussing the main report that will be presented during the 16th Congress of the Cuban Workers Federation, CTC, to be held between 24 and 28 January.

Alfredo Cartaya, who is the round table moderator, introduces the first speaker, Felicia Cerdeno, secretary general of the labor union bureau at an ironworks plant. Cerdeno, on behalf of the ironworks workers and all the workers of the capital, makes a call for the support of the remarks made by Fidel Castro on 7 December. She says: "We will never disappoint him. Our slogan is and will be: Socialism or death! We will follow the principles Fidel and all our leaders have taught us. This country's workers, the proletarian class, will never disappoint them."

Fernando Fernandez, from Havana port's Sierra Maestra 02 unit, says that he believes the report submitted by the Havana province to the CTC is good overall. However, he notes that the port-transportation domestic economy network is not mentioned. He reports the positive results obtained in his unit. Fernandez asserts that, in response to what the press published regarding the meeting Castro held with party leaders, the unit's workers are going to start working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, beginning on 22 January.

Other delegates list their production and savings achievements in areas such as construction equipment factories and sugarcane industry and make their pledges to work as many hours as necessary to "transform the capital."

Irma Ramos, secretary general of the workers' union bureau of the Cuban Sugar Byproducts Research Institute, refers to the importance of the diversification of the sugar industry. She says this is economically necessary and that it can be achieved. Ramos asserts that the sugar byproducts production should be aimed at providing food for animals and at industries that would solve fundamental problems of the country without making big investments. For this, she says the introduction of scientific and technological achievements in the various Sugar Industry Ministry institutes is a matter of top priority.

Juan Bisset, secretary general of the workers of the Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute, says "with these difficulties, our researchers have to grow and find ways to finance research." He goes on saying that, taking into account the difficulties the country has in getting currency, they have organized international courses—exploiting the scientific potential available in the institution. Bisset says they have created four masters degrees with a $10,000 fee. He adds that they have received $110,000 in a year based on this. This has enabled them to remodel and get a new pool of equipment needed to continue with their research, he says. Bisset estimates that they will have an income of $442,000 next year with research projects arranged with independent or government institutions.

Cartaya points out that it is important that "research projects should be aimed at finding solutions to concrete problems and to establish more and more that our research results could turn into a way to acquire the

currency that is indispensable for the country's economic and social development, including research." He adds: "The country gives what it can give. The country will not be able to give what it really does not have. This has to be done with the spirit with which work is being done, with the spirit our researchers work with. That is, by creating using our talents, our efforts, our hands."

Victoriano Suarez, secretary general of the labor union bureau of the electronic industry enterprise and delegate of the Boyeros Municipality, touches on some labor laws. For example, the promotion roster. Suarez says the promotion roster halts the development of production forces and adds that this should be analyzed and updated. He says the promotion roster is not the main basis used to obtain a position in his enterprise. He adds that his enterprise does not pay those workers who do not produce. Suarez also questions the law that regulates idled workers. He asserts that in his enterprise they either place the worker in another job or find another solution. Cartaya refers to the average payment matter and moves that they vote to propose to Congress that the law dealing with average payment and idled workers be modified. The delegates vote and approve the motion. Cartaya notes that idled workers in the capital are already being placed in other jobs, thus, idled workers no longer exist in Havana. He recommends that this same system be used and that workers be paid according to the task they carry out and not according to the average production of workers. He adds that the report recommends this be applied to all workers: Workers, technicians, and leaders. The program ends when this and the entire report is unanimously approved by the delegates.

Antigua and Barbuda

Minister Bird Calls for Visionary Leadership

FL0901183990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1642 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Jan 9, CANA— Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird, has called for "enlightened and visionary leadership" in the Caribbean. Addressing diplomats from the twin-island state, Bird complained the failure of political parties to unite behind one philosophy has led to "fragmentation in the political forces of almost every Caribbean country."

"That there is need for enlightened and visionary leadership in the Caribbean today cannot be in doubt. And it also cannot be disputed that the politics of the past have little relevance to the problems of the present," he said. "Political parties are unable to unify behind a single philosophy and even within such political parties there is great and increasing dissension," Bird added. "I would take this opportunity to call on all [words indistinct] to put dialogue before dissension and to seek resolution before confrontation."

Bird said, "[words indistinct] cries out for urgent attention in an atmosphere of mature reflection." He said if a sober and careful resolution is not found to the issue of how the politics of the Caribbean is to be conducted in the 1990s, "democracy could very well be at stake and with its disappearance could come intervention in our states from outside forces." Bird said the issue facing Antigua and Barbuda is how to respond to the changes on the international scene, in order to protect its national rights, and economic development.

"Lacking military might and economic clout, the only foreign policy tool available to us in the international system is diplomacy. But diplomacy needs not only good diplomats, it also requires financial resources to support their work," Bird said. Bird said Antigua will have to examine whether or not it has sufficient capable and experienced people to carry out the complex diplomatic initiatives now required in a changed and changing world. "We will also have to give serious consideration to whether we can afford financial costs of maintaining the expanded missions which would be necessary for effectivess," he added.

Bird said he had discussions with St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton and "agreed that in an increasingly competitive world, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) should once again consider a formula that addresses the need for small countries to best advance their cause in the international system."

Dominican Republic

Doctor Says Balaguer 'Healthy Enough' To Run

FL0901175490 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Major General Clarence Eduardo Charles Dunlop, the medical adviser of the executive branch, has stated that President Joaquin Balaguer is in excellent health to run as a presidential candidate in the 16 May election. Dunlop said that, as a physician, he believes President Balaguer is healthy enough to be a candidate.

President Balaguer recently announced that he was going to undergo a medical checkup abroad before deciding if he is going to run as a candidate for the Christian Social Reformist Party in the 16 May election.

Dr. Dunlop made these remarks at the national palace.

Grenada

Opposition Promises No Personal Income Tax

FL0901141490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1155 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 8, CANA— Grenada's opposition New National Party (NNP) is promising a restructuring of the tax system if it wins general elections

which must be held by March. Leader Dr. Keith Mitchell told a public meeting of his party on Sunday night that an NNP government would not re-introduce personal income tax. "We do not see it as a necessity," he said, promising fundamental changes to the island's 3 and ½ percent business levy.

Mitchell described the levy as regressive and a disincentive to "serious business and development in the country." "We would change the business levy to a corporate tax on net profits, ensuring that net profit is understood by all concerned," he said.

Mitchell, dismissed as communications minister by the late Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, said his party would also revise the property tax legislation referring to it as " a mass at this time." "...We would evaluate our property tax to ensure that the values put on property is more appropriate with the level of that property."

Mitchell said the role of the Industrial Development Corporation would be upgraded allowing it to "make the kinds of decisions to encourage more investors into this country and to improve the lifestyles of Grenadians."

Mitchell also claimed that the ruling National Party (TNP) and the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) had a "secret understanding" even before the death of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. Mitchell blamed the NDC for the continued survival of the government, despite efforts to bring about a vote of no confidence in the TNP administration. Mitchell said the NDC had failed to back his motion of no confidence in the government.

He told supporters he had supported Ben Jones as prime minister following the death on December 19 of Herbert Blaize, only because he wanted Jones to hold elections in January. "I told the governor-general that I cannot support a situation where a man is given a carte blanche situation to be in office and to call elections at any time he wishes....," Mitchell added. Since taking office, Jones has said election will be the third priority of his party.

Haiti

HAITI EN MARCHE Speculates on Elections

FL0901132790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Avril was in Gonaives. Foreigners, don't meddle! That is the message General Avril wanted to get across on 1 January in Gonaives, with a big, well-planned display where he made the Army give him a 21-gun salute, says HAITI EN MARCHE. The general used our forefathers as a pretext for throwing darts, so to speak, at the big countries that are pressuring him into holding elections. The very idea of elections gives the general a headache! If he does not take some kind of stand on the matter, he will not get one red cent from foreign authorities; and when he does, his little buddies, the clique from Thomazeau, get aggressively defensive and begin grumbling and pouting.

HAITI EN MARCHE also wonders who Gen. Avril's candidate is: Minister of Finance Franck Paultre; Public Health Minister Serge Pinthro; or Lamartiniere Honorat, a former minister of Papa Doc?

The paper says that the chances are very good that, in the last analysis, Avril's candidate is no other than Prosper himself. Because, says the paper, the general is prey to a great desire for power. Some people think that one of these days he will just up and officially declare what he failed to announce on 18 November [when there were many rumors that Gen. Avril was going to declare he was taking power indefinitely].

Trinidad and Tobago

Communication Merger Continues; Unions To Meet

FL0901151190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1227 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 8, CANA— The chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's External Telecommunications Company, Textel, and internal phone service, Telco, Karl Hudson-Phillips says he is meeting this week with unions representing workers at the two companies as they work towards a January 1991 merger. Hudson-Phillips gave an update on steps being taken towards the merger at a long service awards ceremony for the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company, Telco.

"Properly handled, the merger or whatever it is called should open up a wealth of promotions," Hudson-Phillips told his audience. He said he would meet with the unions this week to disclose the contents of the Telco contract.

Cable and Wireless became the new Telco partner taking up 49 per cent of shares in the debt-ridden company late last year. Telco was formerly totally state owned. Cable and Wireless already has a similar shareholding in the Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Company, Textel, and the new Telco partnership deal contains agreement for the merger of Textel and Telco in a year's time. The mechanisms for the merger are yet to be thrashed out.

According to Hudson-Phillips, U.S. 85 million dollar equity of Cable and Wireless in Telco will be used to bring Telco's overdue principal and interest payments up to date. Any money left from this task will be spent on Telco's capital development programme.

The government sought a foreign partner for Telco as the phone company's foreign debt soared to some 13 per cent of the national debt because of the company's development programme and two devaluations of the local dollar. Under the agreement with Cable and Wireless, the British firm will also provide 3 years in technical support as well as overseas postings for local staff to other Cable and Wireless interests.

El Salvador

Army Reportedly Thwarts FMLN Eastern Advances

PA0901171890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1519 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Jan (DPA)—The Salvadoran Army today prevented the occupation of cities in the eastern part of El Salvador, waging strong clashes between midnight and dawn, according to reports by military sources.

The attacks, according to the reports, took place in Usulutan, Usulutan Department, 110 km east of the capital, and in Santa Elena where as of 0700 clashes were still under way. Santa Elena is located 119 km east of the capital, and both cities are coffee regions.

In Usulutan, 6th Brigade troops and rapid deployment battalions repelled the incursion with artillery fire. During the 2d week of December, there had been strong clashes on the outskirts of Usulutan, in what the guerrillas called the "Battle of El Nisperal," in the canton that bears the same name, which cost the Army 29 dead, although it has only admitted to 21 deaths.

In Santa Elena the clashes were also strong, but so far there have been no reports of casualties on either side.

From San Vicente, in the central part of the country, where the Chichontepec Volcano is located, strong clashes were reported, and the 5th Brigade bombed rebel positions on the volcano, where the FMLN has strong bastions.

The 1st Infantry Brigade is carrying out operations in northern San Salvador. And on the outskirts of the capital this morning powerful explosions, characterized as military actions to prevent rebels from gathering, could be heard. The night before last, there were attempts to enter the capital from that direction.

The Army has increased its surveillance to prevent mobilizations, and through careful searches vehicles are being controlled at the capital city's entrances and exits.

In other actions, the Armed Forces Press Committee reported at least six FMLN deaths in various parts of the country.

Last night there were fewer attacks on stores and electric towers in the capital. There were also threats of power rationing if these actions continued.

FMLN Concerned for Captured Guerrilla Caracamo

PA1001001590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) expressed its concern today over guerrilla Salvador Carcamo's life, arrested by Salvadoran Treasury Police on 30 December in San Salvador.

The Secretariat for the Promotion and Protection of Salvadoran Guerrillas' Human Rights [Secretaria de Promocion y Proteccion de los Derechos Humanos de la Guerrilla Salvadorena] reported in a communique issued on 9 January in Managua that "since the day he was captured (Carcamo) has disappeared."

The FMLN's organization called on all human rights organizations to demand that the government of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani "respect Carcamo's life and that the reasons for his detention be clarified."

Commentary on Air Force Commander's Resignation

PA1001030790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Goodbye [Air Force Commander] General Rafael Bustillo, false hope for mass killers. Gen. Bustillo resigns or is made to resign as the Air Force chief. Because of this, the general is admitting that without the bombing on San Salvador's neighborhoods the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] would have defeated the Salvadoran Armed Forces. Bustillo's resignation is yet another sign of the failure of 10 years of the U.S. counterinsurgency policy in El Salvador, as became clear with the offensive launched on 10 November.

For 10 years the military and their U.S. sponsors based their trust in the air power to drown in blood the aspiration of the nation to achieve democracy and social justice. This first happened in the interior of the country, with the destruction of dozens of towns like Tenancingo, Berlin, Torola, San Fernando, and so many others that took place along with the genocide carried out by the infantry with the mass murders of civilians in El Mosoto, Sunpul, and Ocotapayo. Bustillo is leaving as so many generals and U.S. ambassadors have. And like all of them his departure reveals the imperialist power's failure to consolidate its counterinsurgency program in El Salvador.

As all the others who have left, Bustillo also seeks excuses in the face of his failure, by accusing others. He accuses [former Defense Minister Eugenio] Vides Casanova of being soft in fighting the people's plan. One would have to ask Bustillo if the Air Force, of which he represented its most encouraging pillar, was soft when it murdered 70,000 Salvadorans, Monsignor Arnulfo Romero and the Jesuit priests included, and even when it murdered patriot officers of that same army. Was the U.S. Pentagon soft when it gave $3 billion, weapons, and bombs for the most cowardly act of genocide Latin America can recall this century?

The U.S. strategy, implemented through the top military command in the past 10 years with all its might did all it could so that the permanent rebellion in the rural areas reached the country's vital centers, as indeed happened as of the 10 November offensive. Bustillo states it

clearly. The bombing temporarily halted the defeat of the top command. Through an act of genocide, it managed to remove the disgruntled people from the neighborhoods where the guerrilla forces were. Bustillo acknowledges genocide is the sole way the Armed Forces can survive. Bustillo acknowledges the FMLN's strength and therefore urges the Armed Forces to be tougher and inflexible and rejects a political solution to the conflict. A political solution would express the consensus among the country's major sectors. Obviously the top command represents a decadent minority. Bustillo supports launching a fascist crusade against the people's wish for democracy. In this effort, he lashes out at the Catholic Church, all opposition sectors that report human rights violations, and all sectors that support democratizing the country. In conclusion, we say that Bustillo is not resigning of his own volition. The FMLN action eliminated Bustillo as it eliminated Garcia, Vides, and so many other military chiefs who left their posts without fulfilling the task commissioned by the United States: to stop the FMLN.

The FMLN offensive bared the genocidal, antipopular, and fascist nature of the Alfredo Cristiani regime to such an extent that it prompted a strong debate in the United States on cutting military aid. The Jesuits' murders and the bombings so shook the international community that it is pressuring for punishment of the officers involved in these incidents. However, the Bush administration accepted this, since Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce [chairman of the joints chiefs of staff] and his clique, even Cristiani, must shoulder this responsibility. We must not forget that in Costa Rica the Salvadoran defense minister disclosed Cristiani authorized the bombings.

Bush needed a scapegoat to place it on the altar of the debates which will begin in the U.S. Congress on the fate of military aid. Bustillo is Bush's scapegoat. However, Bustillo was already a useless element of the murderous machinery that remains active. Will the U.S. public and Congress be appeased with this foul tasting candy? Time and the spirit of the times are obviously running against the fascist program in El Salvador. While peoples of the world tear down dogmas, dictatorships, and walls, Bustillo, who leaves through the door of defeat, asks the Armed Forces to be tougher, commit more genocide, and build more walls of repression against the Church, the people, and the nation as a whole. Goodbye, Gen. Bustillo. We continue writing history without you. The decade we begin is of democracy, independence, and self-determination. That is why foreign intervention and the walls of intolerance have a short life span in this country, where the people grow in heroism and the struggle for social change is not deterred by bombings.

Rebel War Bulletin Reports Seven Casualties

PA1001035490 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A war bulletin indicates that on 6 January at 1625, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] troops clashed with the Cavalry Company in Finca Santa Elena, Santa Tecla, near San Salvador, killing three and wounding four enemy troops, including the patrol leader who was among those killed. Our troops seized an M-14 rifle from the enemy, 3,000 cartridges for a 7.62-mm rifle, five knapsacks, six grenades, and field equipment.

Nicaragua

Ministry on U.S. Need To Assign CIAV Funds

PA1001004890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] On 8 January, a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry source stated that if the U.S. Government really wants to contribute to the contra demobilization, repatriation, and relocation process, it should transfer the contra funds to the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] going still further to dismantle the contra camps in Honduras.

In April 1989, the U.S. Congress approved a bill assigning at least $67 million to the Nicaraguan contras. It established that $49.7 million were to be given to them in direct aid: $7.7 million for transportation; $5 million for AID's [Agency for International Development] operation expenses (as fund administrator); and $4.2 million, to be managed by the Catholic Church, for medical assistance to civilian war victims.

It was agreed that the total amount was to be disbursed in a 10-month period and would be issued in monthly stipends of not more than $4.5 million. According to AID reports, it actually did not spend more than $3.5 million each month. Thus, after the January and February assignments for a total of $7 million are issued, between $8 and $9 million will still be outstanding. Also, the State Department had set aside $3 million to be used for the startup of CIAV operations.

However, and although the Nicaraguan Government had said the U.S. decision to assign $3 million to CIAV was an initial step toward contra demobilization, the five Central American presidents agreed in Tela and reaffirmed in San Isidro de Coronado that "all funds" assigned by the U.S. Congress to the contras were to be transferred to the CIAV to carry out the tasks for which it was formed.

The source stated that "CIAV members need more than $3 million, as the contras' food, housing, and medicine, along with the dismantling of their camps in Honduran territory and their demobilization and repatriation to Nicaragua or other countries, require large amounts of money."

Although the $3 million disbursement is a step in the right direction, said the source, Central Americans demand that the United States take concrete and effective actions to carry out the objective set by the five regional leaders.

The source said that the Nicaraguan Government "is still studying the State Department's decision" because "we have to see how the U.S. Government behaves when CIAV members visit the contra camps." That, the source added, is the main concern, as previously we have observed how it has been impossible to implement the regional agreement.

Editorial Says U.S. Holding Back

PA0901235890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 3

[Editorial: "An Insufficient Measure"]

[Text] The U.S. Government's decision to transfer to the International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] $3 million of the $67 million approved in April 1989 to keep the contras in their Honduran camps has been described by the Nicaraguan Government as "an insufficient measure" in fulfillment of the Tela and San Isidro Coronado accords.

The reasoning behind this conclusion is simple enough. A deadline was established in Tela for disbanding the contras on 15 December 1989. This deadline was violated by the Honduran Government, but particularly by the U.S. Government, whose financing the contras with millions of dollars encouraged them to resist laying down their weapons.

In San Isidro Coronado, the presidents did not set a new deadline for demobilization but simply reiterated the validity of the Tela accord and reinforced it by demanding that "all of the funds" allocated by the U.S. Congress for the contras be transferred to CIAV to carry out the demobilization. In other words, the presidents take it for granted that the order for disbanding is incompatible with the allocation of any additional funds to keep the counterrevolution active. Consequently, when the United States said it will contribute only a small portion of the $67 million earmarked for CIAV, obviously not only is it far from fulfilling the letter of the agreement, but makes fun of it as well.

It could be argued that by acknowledging the role played by the CIAV the first time the United States sent a message of discouragement to the contras by making a minimum commitment in the demobilization. Nevertheless, this apparent modification of the traditional policy of blocking any measures that could lead to disarm the contras is ambiguous and contradictory, particularly because the contras have continued to perpetrate terrorist actions against the electoral process in full knowledge of the U.S. Government.

Evidently the only consistent thing so far is Washington's support for the contras, thus enabling them to remain a fighting force that could survive the electoral process. Should there be a true change of policy, the Bush government would be forced to give sure signs of its support for the demobilization, first by giving all of the funds to the CIAV to ensure irreversible disbandment and repatriation of the contras who desire to register their names and vote in the elections, and, second, by allowing the CIAV to inspect and take over the management of the mercenaries' camps in Honduras. Without these effective steps, it is very difficult to attribute any degree of credibility to the intentions of a government, which, contradicting the world climate of detente, has just launched a brutal invasion against the Panamanian people.

Ramirez Predicts Sandinist Election Victory

PA0901225590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez, current vice president and vice presidential candidate for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], said on 7 January that the FSLN's victory in the upcoming elections will definitely bury the counterrevolution.

Before thousands of residents, who expressed their full support for the FSLN in the upcoming elections in Achuapa, Leon Municipality, Dr Ramirez said that the contras have no other option than to accept the amnesty and demobilize as mandated by the Tela, Honduras accord. They should follow the example of the former contra leader known by the alias of Johnson who will be arriving in the country today after accepting amnesty, Ramirez added:

[Begin Ramirez recording] Other contras will follow suit. What does this mean? It means that we are making inroads toward achieving peace; that we we will indeed achieve peace. All those contras, who have killed clergywomen, priests, nuns, and ambushed our activists in the mountains, as was the case in Jinotega, in [word indistinct] where they killed our people not long ago, have no other option. They will achieve nothing by kidnapping and killing people and peasants.

That is a thing of the past. We will bury that forever, once and for all because we will defeat the contras in the elections; we will defeat the arrogant Yankees who are refusing to acknowledge that here we have a revolution and a free and democratic people who are determined to move forward. We will defeat the contras, because, as you know, they and the UNO [National Opposition Union] are one and the same thing. In facing the UNO in the elections, we will be facing the Yankees and the contras.

Fortunately, they lost the war and the Yankees realized that the contras can do nothing. Their goal was not to go around kidnapping and killing people; it was to enter Managua. The Yankees believed that the contras would enter Managua in 1983 when they began arming them. The Yankees thought that the contras would enter Managua in 2 or 3 weeks, then in 2 or 3 months, then in 2 or 3 years, and now it turns out that the contras will never be able to enter Managua because they stayed in Honduras. [end recording]

Arce: Poll Shows FSLN Gains Popularity

PA0901170790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1228 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Commander of the Revolution, Bayardo Arce Castano, who is also a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has stated that a poll conducted in late December shows that the number of possible votes in favor of the FSLN has increased. Without citing the name of the firm that conducted the poll, Arce added that the number of voters abstaining and the number of undecided voters has dropped remarkably.

Let us listen to Commander Arce as he referred to this matter:

[Begin Arce recording] In this recent poll, we see that the number of voters abstaining has dropped remarkably. We think that this is because all parties are urging the people to participate in the elections. No one has chosen the mistaken path of asking people not to vote. It seems to me that the recent 1 January message by his Eminence Cardinal Obando y Bravo urging all Nicaraguans to vote will allow us to have greater voter participation. [30-second break in reception] ...I would say that it is normal in any country. There is no country in the world where everyone votes. However, the number of undecided voters has also dropped. I think that this is also normal as the electoral campaign progresses. The number of possible votes for the FSLN has increased. I do not want to go into detail on this. I think that it is better for those firms conducting the polls to show the figures for that. [end recording]

UN Observers Criticize Media Election Coverage

PA0901161690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The UN Observer Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) today in Managua criticized the "noticeable polarization" in the local press and the "absence of impartiality" in their coverage of electoral events.

The report—the second published by ONUVEN observers in Nicaragua—says that the "absence of objectivity" in the Nicaraguan press "goes to extremes that are difficult to imagine."

The UN observers emphasized that events are distorted to such a degree that accounts of the same story cannot be recognized when reported by the different media.

"With very few exceptions, the message content and language used are very aggressive," experts said in their report when analyzing the country's media behavior.

The criticism is mainly directed at newspapers such as BARRICADA, the official organ for the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]; the pro-government EL NUEVO DIARIO; and the opposition's LA PRENSA, virtually the mouthpiece of UNO [National Opposition Union], according to the ONUVEN document.

There is, in addition, a special chapter covering Sandinist Television, the only television allowed in Nicaragua.

The report dedicates much commentary to the state-run television and said it allots more time to the party in power—the FSLN—than to the Nicaraguan opposition, mainly the anti-Sandinist alliance.

"Not only is the the state-run television coverage less, but usually distorts the truth," stress the UN observers.

"It has become worse over the last few weeks, and any mention of the UNO opposition party (comprised of 14 parties) has been simply insulting," the document pointed out.

UNO, the presidential candidate of which is Violeta Chamorro, also "errs" the same way. The television newscast broadcast over channel 2, also state-run, is "sheer propaganda," in which reporting takes a form similar to that of the Sandinists, the reports stresses.

The report also criticises the excessive airing of political propaganda prepared by the FSLN, which owns the absolute majority of the media.

Panama

Students Stage Anti-U.S. Demonstration

PA0901182390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1747 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Some 150 Panamanian students and intellectuals participated today in the first anti-U.S. demonstration to take place since the U.S. Army invaded this country on 20 December.

During the march, the demonstrators carried signs with slogans such as "the country is in mourning" and "Noriega, the oligarchy, and the CIA—the same old crap."

The demonstrators were commemorating another anniversary of the so-called "heroic deed of the 9 January 1964 martyrs," recalling when 22 Panamanians were killed in clashes with U.S. soldiers. They were also protesting the current U.S. military occupation.

The students and intellectuals, accompanied by several priests, first went to a mass and then marched, carrying Panamanian flags and wearing black armbands, to the cemetery where the "9 January martyrs" are buried.

Panamanian priest Jose Medina, who officiated at the mass, said that "during the invasion, there were moments of rejoicing over the departure of (Manuel

Antonio) Noriega" but that this happiness was followed by "confusion and now by reflection."

Another priest, U.S. citizen Diego Claffey, said: "Last year, on this date, I felt sorrow over the events that had occurred in Panama," and "today, I feel shame over the invasion."

The march was closely followed by U.S. Army units and members of the new Panamanian Public Force, who did not intervene.

There was only one incident, when U.S. soldiers asked a CBS Television cameraman to turn over what he had filmed and the cameraman refused.

Embassies Asked To Report Asylum Seekers

PA1001003590 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0048 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will contact all the embassies in our country to find more persons who have taken political asylum, Foreign Minister Julio Linares has stated. He also said Panamanian civilian and military personnel are in the Peruvian Embassy. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Linares] This morning, I instructed the deputy foreign minister to contact the Peruvian Embassy to urge that it formally advise us of the presence of Panamanians who are in that diplomatic mission.

[Reporter] How many Panamanians are under asylum in the Peruvian Embassy?

[Linares] I cannot remember at the moment, but I do know there are several.

[Reporter] Are they military members?

[Linares] Some are, while others are civilians, but there are several.

[Reporter] Regarding the Panamanians who are in the Cuban Embassy, it has been mentioned that arrangements are being made to have the wife of General Noriega leave. Is there any truth to this?

[Linares] We received a formal communication from the Cuban Embassy advising us of the presence of Mrs. Noriega and her daughters in the Cuban Embassy. We—that is, the Foreign Ministry—immediately transferred that communication to the Government and Justice Ministry, which is the one called upon to say whether there is any criminal cause pending against these persons. If there is no criminal cause pending against them, the Foreign Ministry will immediately grant the respective safe-conduct pass.

[Reporter] Do you know whether other former government officials or military members have been given refuge in other embassies, such as the Ecuadoran or Libyan Embassies?

[Linares] The Foreign Ministry is, in fact, making efforts to contact those embassies to that effect, because the necessary time has elapsed for them to submit an official report to the Foreign Ministry advising whether they have given asylum or refuge to any person according to international practices. [end recording]

Noriega Aid Asked To Leave Peruvian Embassy

PA0901233190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2305 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The Peruvian Government announced today that three close collaborators of Manuel Antonio Noriega are in the Peruvian Embassy in Panama awaiting safe-conduct passes and that Lieutenant Colonel Luis Papo Cordoba, who is being sought, was asked to leave the embassy as "persona non grata."

This was stated this afternoon in Lima by Peruvian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox, who identified the refugees in the Peruvian Embassy as Major Gonzalo Gonzalez, Marcela Tason, Noriega's secretary—who had the rank of captain—and a relative of hers who was not identified.

Larco Cox said his government is arranging safe conduct for these three so they can leave Panama.

Meanwhile, the ACAN-EFE agency reported today that a diplomatic source had confirmed that 11 people linked with Noriega are in refuge in the embassy.

Mrs. Noriega's Bodyguards Leave Envoy's Home

PA1001024290 Havana International Service in Spanish 0123 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City]

[Text] This is an exclusive report for our listeners. We report that this afternoon at 1500 Panamanians Benjamin Guerra Cerrano, a sergeant of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and Samuel Augusto Anria [name as heard], a corporal of that institution, voluntarily left the residence of Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora. Until 20 December, the two men had been the bodyguards of Mrs. Felicidad Siero de Noreiga, wife of the former FDP chief. Panamanian university student Teodoro Hunt Heslow also voluntarily left the Cuban ambassador's residence. He was the driver who took the family of former Panamanian legislator Luis Antonio Gomez Perez to the Cuban diplomatic mission.

During their exit, which was coordinated by Jose Luis Mendez, Cuban general consul in Panama, and Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Quezada, the public security chief of the new Public Force, Sergeant Guerra was immediately set free. The other two persons, accompanied by the sister of one of them, were taken to Fort Clayton to be identified. They were not taken as detainees but for identification purposes.

The family of former legislator Lucho Gomez is expected to leave the Cuban Embassy momentarily in a voluntary manner. He has requested to remain in the country. I repeat, Luis Antonio Gomez's family will voluntarily leave the residence of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora. It was also reported today that the safe-conduct passes for Mrs. Noriega and her family to leave the Cuban ambassador's residence with the corresponding guarantees have not been received. It was also known at the Cuban Embassy that the safe-conduct passes for the Siero Noriega family have been requested on three occasions.

Endara Discusses Public Force, Troops Leaving

PA1001001390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] President Guillermo Endara today said he forgives the Latin American countries that did not support the Panamanian people when they were asked to condemn Noriega, who was ousted on 20 December. He said: The Latin American countries should not feel guilty because they did not support us when they were asked to. We have forgiven them. Now we need their support in our efforts to rebuild the homeland.

Referring to civilians and military men linked to Noriega, and who have sought refuge at embassies, Endara said that he expects the Latin American institution of political asylum not to be used by common murderers. Endara also said the United States has a political, moral, and international duty toward Panama after the military intervention that caused waves of looting that inflicted losses of $1.5 billion on the local businessmen. He also said this:

[Begin recording] [Endara] First of all, we require a modern, technical, and professional police. We will also need, however, to create a small-scale public force, which does not contradict Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' fundamental philosophy.

[Reporter] What do you think of the fact that, because the Public Force has not yet been organized and, in addition, has had to accept members of the old Panama Defense Forces [PDF] [words indistinct]? Is it necessary for the U.S. forces to remain in the country longer?

[Endara] The U.S. forces should stay here only until we get our Public Force organized. As soon as this happens, the U.S. forces will withdraw based both on their decision and our request.

[Report] How long will it take to organize the Public Force?

[Endara] It is very difficult to estimate how long. I even thought it could be done in a month. Sorry to say, it does not work this way. [end recording]

Arias Discusses Public Force Organization

PA0901205490 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, has announced a series of changes in the agencies that made up the dismantled Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the subordination of these agencies to civilian power.

He said that effective immediately, the former National Department of Investigation, DENI, becomes a technical judicial police under the Attorney General's Office, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Penitentiary, as well as the Traffic and Ground Transportation Department, will operate under the Government and Justice Ministry.

Arias Calderon also said Panama needs a new public force because the U.S. presence is and must be temporary. He noted that the new organization will not include any colonel of the FDP with serious accusations against him.

Arias made these statements when he announced the appointment of Jose de los Santos Chen Barria as new director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

According to Arias, some of the gravest injustices were committed at the Immigration and Naturalization Service; injustices made when passports were issued and residency permits were granted.

[Begin Arias recording] One of the main aspects of this new day of the Panamanian democracy is the thorough renewal of Panama's Public Force. The FDP as created by General Noriega ceased to exist once and for all and that must remain clear. [applause]

Proof of this is the president's decision to demolish the FDP headquarters on A Avenue and use that land for the Chorrillo community. This means there will be no physical and concrete signs of the existence of the so-called FDP of General Noriega.

However, Panama, its democratic government, and people need a new public force. They need a public force that, under the authority of the president, will strictly abide by the Constitution and will enforce Panamanian laws to defend democracy. This is one of the great tasks the members of the democratic government are devoted to.

The decisions already made include changes in certain services that, because of their nature, are civilian services, and they will no longer be under the military forces. I will mention four in particular. The service formerly known as DENI will now become—like in Costa Rica and Venezuela—a technical judicial police operating under the Attorney General's Office. It will remain at its current location for a short while for reasons of practicality. However, the new headquarters of the Public Force and this department will operate

under civilian authorities. It must be promised to Panamanians, once and for all, that DENI personnel are not here to torture people but to conduct investigations. [applause]

In addition, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which should have never been under military control, will now be under civilian authority— the Government and Justice Ministry.

You serve the Panamamian people. You render a delicate service because it has to do with matters that intimately affect the people; matters that affect their security, their sense of tranquillity, and their capacity to belong, live, and work in a community. It is a service that must be under civilian and not military control. For this reason, it will now operate under civilian authority.

It must be frankly stated: For a long time, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was run as one of the most corrupt entities of the regime. It was one of the cruelest forms of corruption because it played with the fate and lives of people, people who were subjected to all kinds of humiliations and were forced to pay to travel about and live in, as well as to travel to, our country. But this is all over with. You must again earn the community's respect. You must not only seek to earn the people's respect, but also their love. You must operate under a civilian authority that is there to enforce the law and nothing else.

Other services of the Public Force will be transferred to operate under civilian authorities. Everything that has to do with traffic and transportation—the granting of drivers' licenses, license plates, the car inspection process, the granting of bus routes, and permits to operate taxis—will be under civilian authorities. This involves everything that concerns traffic and transportation activities that do not fall under the category of police duties. Even a fourth service will be under civilians now. It is the penitentiary system. It will be transferred gradually to civilian authorities.

We found incredible things at the penitentiaries. An initial visit to Coiba, the penal island, was enough to make one weep bitterly. Panama needs a new public force because the U.S. presence is and must be provisional. Once this presence ends, it is up to us to guarantee respect for human rights. We need a professional force with high democratic values. We need a public force that will have, most of all, a top-quality police service. We need a public force that will earn the people's respect, affection, and trust. We need that public force to face—God forbid— any serious threat to the people's security. We have begun to form this public force, and I feel confident that these first few steps have been good and firm.

Many people have said to me: But this Public Force is being formed with former FDP members. But I say: Not all of them. Of all the FDP colonels, there is not one nor will there be one in the new Public Force. [applause] [end recording]

Ford Views Public Employee Dismissals, Aid

PA1001010990 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, vice president and planning and economic policy minister, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] The president's policy of not dismissing honest public employees remains in effect. Those who have been inefficient are being replaced. If I understood the statements made by the presidency minister correctly, the government is relocating employees.

[Reporter] Are you making any efforts for the prompt reopening of Panama City's international airport?

[Ford] We gave our instructions this morning. We had to coordinate security measures. God willing, the airport will be fully reopened on 10 January at the latest.

[Reporter] As the planning and economic policy minister, have you met with the business sector and the insurance companies association, which are currently involved in a quarrel?

[Ford] We have been meeting with the various groups. The part that involves the government, however, is an economic package that we finished assessing yesterday. It will be presented to the Cabinet this afternoon. Our responsibility as a government, however, is not only to help insurance policyholders, but to revitalize our economy by indemnifying all those who experienced property damage during the military actions.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the foreign aid?

[Ford] We will make a statement in this regard tonight. We will rely on the United States, the EEC, Canada, and Japan. Obviously our first source will be the United States and the international financial institutions. We finished drafting the economic package, but I cannot give you any details until the cabinet approves it.

[Reporter] Has the government discussed the looting experienced by some Central Avenue businesses with the United States so they will be indemnified?

[Ford] Of course. All that is part of the economic package, so we can obtain some kind of indemnification. We must take into account that the looting was unfortunately an action conducted by the Panamanian people themselves. We must therefore fairly assess the damage we experienced, because the most important thing is to revitalize the economy by indemnifying businessmen with the condition that they reinstate all the employees that have been temporarily laid off.

[Reporter] How will the government go about requesting that foreign aid?

[Ford] We will request it directly, and I hope we start doing it tomorrow, because this country can no longer take the world's bureaucraftism toward us. We must

obtain immediate support in a dignified manner and through a responsible defense of our request.

[Reporter] But will you send a letter, or make phone calls, or what?

[Ford] We will first send a letter. Then the economic team that departs Panama tomorrow will defend our economic package. Perhaps a cabinet member may travel to the United States also.

[Reporter] Who are the members of that economic team, and what will be...

[Ford, interrupting] The team is headed by Carlos Rodriguez, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, and the economic group will be headed by Dr. [name indistinct].

[Reporter] Will they only visit the United States, or do they plan to visit other countries?

[Ford] For the time being they will only visit the United States, because the other international institutions before which we will defend our package, including the IMF, are headquartered there.

Ford Visits Canal; Meets With Manfredo

PA1001043790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning minister, visited the Panama Canal, where he met with ranking officials. After a brief interview with his former classmate Deputy Administrator [as heard] Joseph Wood, Ford met with Acting Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Administrator Fernando Manfredo. Manfredo presented an updated report to Ford on the situation of the canal. Manfredo explained that the transit operations had returned to normal after the 30-hour suspension of service following the 20 December military operation. The waiting list, which had amounted to 150 ships, had been reduced to only 13 ships by Sunday, 7 January.

Vice President Ford congratulated Manfredo and the canal employees for such outstanding work amid so much tension and difficulties. Finally, Ford reiterated to Manfredo the desire of President Guillermo Endara Galimany to develop a cordial and harmonious relationship and a spirit of cooperation with the PCC.

Endara Denies U.S. Influence on Decisions

PM0901153090 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 27 Dec 90 p 8

[Interview with President Endara by Joaquim Ibarz in Panama City, date not given]

[Text] Panama City—"Noriega cannot be given political asylum because he is a bandit and must answer for his many crimes to the people of Panama, to Latin America, and to the world; Panama cannot give him a safe-conduct pass to leave the country," new Panamanian President Guillermo Endara stated.

Guillermo Endara attained the presidency amid worldwide discredit for taking the oath of office after the invasion, but with the approval and support of the Panamanian people, who voted en masse for him in the 7 May election. In his first exclusive interview as president, conducted minutes after his meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, Endara stated that "the United States will never allow Noriega to leave Panama."

[Ibarz] What would be Panama's attitude if Spain offered Noriega asylum?

[Endara] I believe that Spain has ruled out the possibility of granting him asylum. It is a delicate and complex problem. It is a diplomatic problem that must be handled with great tact, in accordance with international law, which we respect and observe. The nuncio—Monsignor Laboa—is a personal friend who is greatly loved by all Panamanians. Our people owe Monsignor Laboa a great deal because he supported us in the struggle for democracy. The problem is not between the Vatican and Panama but between the Vatican and the United States.

[Ibarz] Many Panamanians are gathering outside the nunciature, demanding justice and wanting to lynch Noriega...

[Endara] He cannot be allowed to be lynched, but nor can there be talk of giving him political asylum. The crimes attributed to Noriega are not political. He must be tried for murder, robbery, drug trafficking, and corruption—crimes that have nothing to do with politics.

[Ibarz] Why do you believe a military man like Noriega went and took refuge in the Apostolic Nunciature?

[Endara] He was a braggart, and now he has shown he is a coward. He always spoke of fighting to the death, but he was the first to hide. He has been the scourge of Panama. He is responsible for the invasion. He is an utter coward—a coward of the first order. He thought only of himself and his power.

[Ibarz] Does this invasion jeopardize the turnover of the canal in 1999?

[Endara] We will demand observance of the treaties. The United States must withdraw as soon as possible. Noriega was a phony nationalist; he brandished that flag to keep himself in power, but it was he who jeopardized observance of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. With a democratic government, there will be no excuse for not handing over the canal to Panama.

[Ibarz] You attained the presidency with the invading forces' assistance. How will you recover prestige internationally without giving the impression that you are being manipulated by Washington?

[Endara] That is not true; that is not true. I am not being manipulated by anybody. Domestic opinion concerns me more than international opinion. The Panamanians support their president. The people know that nobody is manipulating me.

[Ibarz] Outside Panama, you are regarded as Washington's puppet...

[Endara] If that is so, it is a misapprehension. I am not seeking personal power; I am doing what is best for the country. There was no alternative but to act as I did. My conscience is clear.

[Ibarz] In your opinion, was the invasion inevitable?

[Endara] We never called for Panama to be invaded. It was Noriega who encouraged the invasion; he seemed to be asking for it. When we inaugurated the government, Panama had already been invaded.

[Ibarz] When did you learn that the invasion would take place?

[Endara] A few hours beforehand.

[Ibarz] What did you think at that time?

[Endara] We considered the option of not accepting the government that we were offered. We realized that we could not reject it; it would have been very irresponsible. Somebody had to take over the civil power. The best thing was for those whom the people elected to do so.

[Ibarz] The Spanish Government has been very critical of the invasion...

[Endara] I respect that stance, but I am certain that relations with Spain will soon be very good. Moreover, we trust that Spain will help us rebuild the country. I ask Felipe Gonzalez to show solidarity with Panama, as he has always done.

[Ibarz] Can you take any decision without asking the United States for its permission?

[Endara] It does not influence the decisions taken in this office.

[Ibarz] Will you demand the U.S forces' withdrawal?

[Endara] We will soon have a police force capable of maintaining order. Then the Americans will have to leave. That is the promise Bush made to me by telephone.

Decrees Promote, Retire, Discharge Officers

PA0901220190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Jan 89 pp A1, A10

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Cabinet Council discharged and removed from office Manuel Antonio Noriega, ex-general of the now defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], declared 42 officers retired, and removed 39 other officers closely related to the deposed military officer.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president and government minister, said: "We removed these officers because we are interested in organizing a public force in democracy and wish to honor human rights."

Arias Calderon announced the promotion of Eduardo Herrera Hassan to the rank of colonel and both Fernando Quesada, chief of police, and Aristides Valdonedo, second in command of the Public Force, to lieutenant colonel.

The most important of the removed officers are Marcos Justine, ex-chief of staff, Angel Mina, ex-chief of the economic services, and Alberto Purcell, deputy chief of staff. All of them are now prisoners of war being held by the U.S. Army.

Colonels Leonidas Macias and Guillermo Wong, who were involved in the 16 March 1988 and 3 October 1989 military rebellions, along with Majors Abdiel Lamboglia and Guillermo Urriola, have been declared retired by the ministers' decision.

Arias Calderon has announced that the Public Force will have one unit "capable of coping with unconventional groups." He warned that the Public Force will "meet the country's historic responsibility."

"It was impossible for the officers now removed to be members of the Public Force" because of their relationship with Noriega, Arias Calderon said. [passage omitted]

Ex-President Solis Palma Disobeys Summons

PA0901232490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 12A

[Report by Daniel Rodriguez S.]

[Text] Ex-President Manuel Solis Palma failed to appear at the Prosecutor General's Office to answer charges filed against him by lawyers Carlos Eduardo Rubio and Jorge Hernan Rubio Carrera on 8 Janaury.

The lawyers have accused Solis Palma of comitting crimes during the time he held the post of minister in charge of the Presidency.

Solis Palma should have appeared at 1400 at the Prosecutor's Office, where a large number of reporters, eager to hear what Solis Palma had to say about these charges, awaited him.

LA PRENSA has learned that, after failing to obey this summons, Solis Palma must now send a note to the Prosecutor's Office explaining his absence. Otherwise, authorities can issue an arrest warrant for him for contempt of the law.

Exiled PRD Leader Castro Favors Elections

PA1001010190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2126 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jan (DPA)—A ranking leader of the former Panamanian ruling party said today that his organization supports holding elections in his country, but only after the U.S. troops are withdrawn.

Nils Castro, secretary of international relations of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, ruled out any kind of cooperation with the government of Guillermo Endara.

"We would agree to cooperate with other Panamanian patriotic forces to make the electoral process feasible, but in no way with the government of Endara, which is a bloody regime imposed by a foreign nation," the leader stated.

He added that the PRD favors a peaceful way out, but does not dismiss other forms of struggle to achieve the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and Panama's democratization.

Nils Castro, who is exiled in Mexico, made statements at the end of a ceremony rendering tribute to the victims of the invasion. The event was organized by youth sectors of Mexican political parties, including the government Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Ambassador to Mexico Reports Intention To Resign

FL0901203090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Jorge Turner Morales, Panama's ambassador to Mexico, announced today his intention to resign to his post and reported that he will continue living in Mexico, working as a university professor.

He said there was no Latin American or OAS support in Panama's case. There is no solidarity on the continent and the nations are very undecided about talking, he said.

Turner Morales, who will officially announce his resignation next Wednesday, asserted that President Guillermo Endara's administration is illegitimate. He also denied that General Manuel Antonio Noriega is a drug trafficker. Turner believes the number of people killed by the U.S. invasion in his country, which took place last 20 December, is greater than what is being reported.

The situation makes me a pessimist. In view of the recent events, at least 10 years have to go by before Panama catches up with its fate.

He said there is a threat of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua in the face of the 25 February elections. Actually, all Latin American countries are now threatened, he added.

He believes the true U.S. intention for invading his nation was to establish a docile government to review the Torrijos-Carter agreements on the canal so they can manage it.

Article Comments on Invasion; Blasts OAS

PA0801154590 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Jan 90 p 2

[Article by Ernesto Endara: "In the Search For Freedom"]

[Text] Early on the morning of 20 December 1989, U.S. troops attacked the headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces. The puppet government of Francisco Rodriguez disappeared with the surrendering of that headquarters. To tell the truth, it was almost like magic that all the leaders of Noriega's despotic regime disappeared at the sound of bullets.

Voices protesting the U.S. Army's intervention in Panama were immediately heard. Especially well-known phrases, such as the defense of the people's right to self-determination and the very well-known repetitive chants about the "people's right to their sovereignty," were repeated by voices nearing a state of fury. Those who protested in that manner forgot that it was precisely Noriega's dictatorship that trampled on the Panamanian people's right to choose their own democratic government by annulling the opposition's victory in the May elections, the most overwhelming election victory in our country's history. At this hour and through the matchless transmission of images that television offers to the world, those voices should have witnessed the happiness of a nation that awakens from a long nightmare.

The U.S. troops' operation was given the name "Just Cause," and the cause was indeed just. President Bush has repeatedly stated why the operation was carried out. He said the operation was conducted to protect the lives of the U.S. citizens in Panama; to maintain operation of the canal; to restore a democratic regime in Panama; and to arrest Noriega to try him for drug-trafficking activities. In my opinion, Panamanian sovereignty was not stained. This has not been a war of subjugation. Although its reasons were not primarily to save the Panamanians from the tyrant, the U.S. Army did the dirty job for us. Overthrowing the tyranny would have taken the lives of thousands of Panamanians in the remote case that we would have tried to undertake such an action. Unfortunately, we contributed with an irreparable share of blood; and the most powerful and well-equipped army in the world also gave its share of blood. With courage worthy of a better cause, some Panamanian troops resisted the attack. It is very unfortunate that so many of them lost their lives defending a man who 25 years ago gently obeyed the incredible order to quarter in his barracks while Panamanian people died defending their flag. I will never forget that 9 January 1964, but I must admit that with operation "Just Cause," the U.S.

Army has recovered its good name before the Panamanian people by pouring the blood of 23 soldiers over the foundations of a longed for democracy.

The dictator and his arrogant followers could see that the U.S. was preparing a violent action, but blinded by power, they neither wanted nor knew how to prevent it. They chose to continue along with the farce of the nationalistic struggle of the man who fed them. The Panamanian people never believed in that nationalism. How could we believe in a man who was shamelessly able to repeat the phrase used by a drug trafficker in a James Bond film? Noriega said: "I follow the doctrine of the 3 p's: blows for my opponents, money for my friends, and bullets for my enemies." [palo, plata, plomo] With that phrase, which his henchmen applauded so much, Noriega confessed to the sad corruption of his government. Our dictator was a "movie" dictator. Noriega liked James Bond's opponent so much that he even let the movie be shown in Panama. The most valuable quality in the code of honor of the harsh man in the James Bond film, as well as in Noriega himself, was loyalty. Everyone had to be well aware of that. If a man gave him his soul, he was safe, both physically and economically. That was the way it was... for as long as it lasted. The movie even ended the way that character wanted: The terrible outlaw fought until the end and burned to death without even moaning. A cathartic ending, which the general refused to imitate in real life.

The governments of the world, especially the totalitarian regimes, must understand that no people in the world will be satisfied if it is only given "sovereignty" that for them means "we must remain in power," and being offered that other anguishing phrase "Fatherland or death," thus ignoring that the maximum aspiration of every human being is to live.

The same old tiresome speeches, lapidary phrases, and lyric wanderings about the people's sovereignty and freedom filled the useless precints of the OAS, an organization that has never helped Panama or any other country. Its existence only serves to justify the salaries of its members. If those zealous guardians of the sovereignty of nations had the slightest idea of what sovereignty really means, they would be ashamed of their speeches. A country's sovereignty resides in its people. In the seventeenth century, Milton and Locke, worthy representatives of human intelligence, described the people as the true source of sovereignty and power. Later, the French Revolution confirmed that assertion with blood. Since then, the bad governments and the dictators of the world have known that the people have the right to overthrow them. In the case of Panama, sovereignty (the people) was being tainted by one man. Now, the OAS intends to say that the sovereignty of an entire nation resided in that one man. From their soft sofas, they criticize the U.S. intervention and refuse to recognize a government that was elected by the people. We must repeat that if sovereignty is to reside in a government, that government must be legally constituted; in other words, it must be elected and accepted by most of its citizens. I do not see any other form of sovereignty.

The U.S. Army overthrew the tyranny. The number of lives we lost was much smaller than it would have been if we, the civilians, had tried to overthrow the tyranny. We must be thankful. We now have the opportunity to create and maintain a legal state, which—like the one in fraternal Costa Rica—has only the smallest Public Force possible and necessary to protect its citizens.

In that way, without an army; without becoming political birds of prey; by not falling into the shameful habit of giving out public posts as if they were from a bag of potatoes; and by worshiping intelligence instead of force, a small and peaceful nation will find the path that leads to freedom!

Former President Rodriguez Termed 'Accomplice'

PA1001001690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 12A

[Report by Manolo Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Panama City Mayor Guillermo Cochez has accused former President Francisco Rodriguez of engaging in "administrative corruption in the country because while "he was comptroller he never investigated economic irregularities."

"Today, someone like Rodriguez cannot say that he did not engage in corruption because while he was comptroller (1982 - 1989) he did nothing about the system that prevented officials under him from carrying out investigations to punish the graft and irregularities that existed in the public administration," Cochez told LA PRENSA.

Rodriguez was comptroller general of Panama from 1981 until September 1989, when the regime of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was overthrown in the wake of the U.S. invasion, "handpicked" him as provisional president of Panama in an action that was termed "unconstitutional" by the opposition that is in power today.

Cochez said that although during Rodriguez' administration the comptrollership acquired professionalism in some aspects, "he never had the courage to denounce the administrative mismanagement that occurred in the government, so that makes him an accomplice."

The mayor also spoke about the suit he has filed at the Attorney General's Office against Jilma Noriega de Jurado, who signed a municipal land lease with the Shell Company at the rate of $0.15 a square meter per month, when the law states it should be $0.15 a square meter per day.

As a result of this "fraudulent contract," the municipality of Panama failed to net $119,000 up to the month of August 1989," Cochez said, noting that the lease

contract that provided for the construction of a gas station in the agricultural marketplace of the capital "has been rescinded."

Furthermore, he said, Noriega de Jurado, who was mayor from 1984 until the middle of 1989, faces another suit "for the undue appropriation of half of the funds of the municipal taxes, which are collected annually with a 10 percent discount in the month of January."

Former FDP Members Seek Jobs on Public Force

PA0901194190 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Approximately 80 members of the former Panama Defense Forces [FDP] today marched to the Presidency to request a job on the new Public Force. The demonstrators talked about the difficult economic situation they are facing and demanded to be heard by Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon since the Public Force is under that ministry. Mrs. Teresita Arias [Ricardo Arias Calderon's wife] interceded for the group and a representative of the former members of the FDP was able to explain their situation to the leaders of the new government.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified former FDP member] A group of 70 or 80 of us went to Albrook Field, where we had our names put on the list. We have come here because we are interested in joining the Public Force. It has been 2 weeks since we signed up and and we have heard nothing.

[Second unidentified former FDP member] All of us are former FDP members. We want to join the Public Force. We have walked all the way from Albrook Field; we have walked because many of us do not have the bus fare. We have been going to Albrook Field every day. Today we have come here to talk to the president of the Republic to ask him to solve our problem. We want to be members of the Public Force. We want to be members of the Public Force and support his government. [end recording]

Nuncio Laboa Discusses Noriega at Nunciature

PA0901141190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 90 p 1

[Article by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda]

[Text] In statements to the newspaper LA PRENSA, Apostolic Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa has said that on several occasions he told the United States that nothing could be done to help Colombia as long as Noriega remained in Panama, because what the drug traffickers had failed to attain in Colombia (a government and a state at their disposition), they had attained in Panama.

Laboa, who described Noriega's last ½ hour in the nunciature as the longest of his life, said: "The government could not function and the people could not live in peace as long as that man was here."

Monsignor Laboa made these statements during an interview granted to the newspaper LA PRENSA. LA PRENSA 's publisher Roberto Eisenmann, Nunciature Secretary Joseph Espiteri, Vatican Representative Jacinto Berlocco, and priest Javier Villanueva were also present during the interview.

The first words we heard when we arrived at the nunciature were from Vatican Representive Berlocco, who said: "This is the first Sunday that we have spent peacefully here." Those words seemed to summarize the feeling and anxiety that prevailed in the nunciature with the presence of a hated and wanted man like Noriega.

According to the nuncio, Noriega, who had apparently sought refuge at a place near the nunciature, announced his pending arrival at the diplomatic mission only 10 minutes before he arrived. The announcement caused a commotion. Msgr. Laboa had just returned from Salamanca. He already had 10 forceful guests, most of them from the military, who were seeking refuge at the nunciature. Even at that time in the crisis, those guests were still thinking that the new government could give them a high-ranking public post or could appoint them Panamanian ambassadors to some country.

Noriega's bodyguard Eliecer Gaitan, who played an essential role in convincing Noriega to turn himself over to the authorities, was already at the nunciature.

According to the nuncio, an officer, whom he refused to identify and who, he said, is currently working for the new Public Force, told him that Noriega wanted to come to the nunciature. At the beginning, the officer told the nuncio that Noriega wanted him (the nuncio) to go and get him, but the nuncio refused to do that. The officer said if Noriega did not enter the nunciature, the struggle would continue with guerrillas.

Noriega's decision did not give the nuncio time to consult with Rome, although a whole world of concerns went through his mind at that time. Those concerns included the possibility of a massacre; the fact that with time, Noriega's refuge at the nunciature could become an asylum; and the idea that while Noriega was free, there was the danger that he could hinder the country's democratizing process.

Msgr. Laboa said he was convinced that neither Panama nor the United States would grant safe-conduct to Noriega, which increased the possibility of the people invading the nunciature to get Noriega out. If that had happened, Noriega would have had a fate similar to Mussolini's, because he was sure that U.S. troops would not prevent the people from getting Noriega.

Noriega arrived at the nunciature wearing some old pants, covered with a blanket, and carrying a machine gun in his hand. He occupied the room that Panamanian Archbishop Msgr. Marcos Gregorio McGrath had occupied up until that time. Msgr. McGrath decided to leave the nunciature as soon as he found out Noriega was there also.

The first person who occupied that room as a refugee was controversial LA PRENSA columnist Guillermo Sanchez Borbon and the last one was former general Noriega.

The nuncio, who has been harshly criticized for granting refuge to Noriega, said that he immediately notified the Panamanian authorities, Marc Cisneros, chief of the U.S. Southern Command troops, and Rome of Noriega's presence at the nunciature.

Three minutes after Noriega arrived at the nunciature, Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, who was running from the U.S. troops that had started to surround the nunciature, climbed the nunciature's fence to avoid being arrested and joined the group of refugees that included Belgica del Castillo and her husband, Arnulfo Castrejon, and Gaitan.

According to the nuncio, Noriega was totally isolated during his first 4 days at the nunciature. He did not talk with anybody except his closest friends. His telephone was disconnected, and he only watched television occasionally. The television reports were not not as rambling as the press agencies had reported. Noriega learned from watching television when Carlos Duque, his dear friend, said that he [Noriega] should surrender to justice. That affected him a great deal.

In his first talks with the nuncio, Noriega spoke of his interest in obtaining asylum in Spain, Mexico, and Cuba. Spain denied him refuge, based on its extradition treaty with the United States; Mexico never responded to the request; and, as for Cuba, the nuncio persuaded Noriega that neither the United States nor Panama would grant him safe-conduct to go there.

In view of the impasse caused by Noriega's presence at the nunciature, the nuncio devised a plan to separate Noriega from the rest of the guests, especially his closest aides. The basic objective was for Noriega to understand that it was better for him to turn himself over to the U.S. courts, which had already indicted him.

The plan drafted by the nuncio noted the possibility of moving the nunciature to the San Agustin School, with the guests being transferred there, while Noriega remained in the main house. This idea was acceptable to Panama and Rome, but was not entirely satisfactory to the United States. Michael Kozak showed impatience, while Marc Cisneros feared that the plan would fail.

In a talk with Noriega on 2 January before his surrender, the nuncio explained the advantages that Noriega would gain from turning himself over to the U.S. authorities: his life would not be in danger; a surrender would not undermine his human dignity; and this, in turn, would preserve the right of asylum. Moreover, in no way would he be surrendering to an invading Army, but to the courts, which the nuncio emphasized would be impartial.

At the time, four members of the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] terrorist organization were in the nunciature. They had come there seeking refuge because the invasion and the subsequent destruction of the Defense Forces invalidated an agreement signed by Spain and the FDP (as if they were the nation) granting the four asylum in Panama. Finding themselves without a patron, the ETA members sought refuge at the papal embassy.

The nuncio said he never pressured Noriega to leave the nunciature, but that by 1600 on 3 January, Noriega and his closest aides had become convinced that the nuncio's proposal that Noriega turn himself over to the U.S. authorities was the best solution.

According to the nuncio, the demonstration carried out by the Civic Crusade had no effect on Noriega; he neither saw nor heard it, and by then he had already made the decision to surrender.

Noriega, who had been attending mass in the preceding days, went to a mass offered by the nuncio for God to protect him. In a sermon that apparently brought tears to the eyes of those present, Laboa said the following:

"All loyalties wane; only God is loyal to the end, and an entire life, no matter how wretched, can be redeemed from the moment that one begins to think of God."

Those present prayed for Carlos Duque.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Comments on Relations With U.S.

PY0901211290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1925 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (NA)—U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Terence Todman will leave for his country on 10 January for a stay of almost 2 months. Today the U.S. ambassador met with Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo. Among other issues, Cavallo and Todman analyzed the level of Argentine-U.S. relations and the situation in Panama.

In statements after the meeting, which lasted almost 1 hour and was held at the Foreign Ministry, Cavallo said: "We reviewed all bilateral issues and also those Latin American and world issues in which our two countries are interested."

In an impromptu news conference, Cavallo—who was accompanied by Todman and by Raul Carignano, secretary for Latin American affairs—denied that they analyzed Argentina's need for U.S. financial support.

Cavallo said: "In the area of financial support we are in permanent contact with multilateral credit organizations, with the IMF and with World Bank, and through the U.S. Embassy we are in permanent contact with the U.S. Treasury, just as we are in permanent contact with the governments of other countries."

Cavallo stressed: "Today we did not address that issue, which is being properly dealt with through the talks that the Economy Ministry is holding with IMF representatives, who were here last week and who will be back soon."

He explained: "We are negotiating with the IMF and the World Bank the conclusion of the accords on credits which will be disbursed at a certain rate, depending on Argentina's compliance with the obligations that it assumes."

When asked about the role that he would like the U.S. Treasury to play in the refinancing of the Argentine foreign debt, Cavallo replied: "We have always appreciated the support that the U.S. Treasury extended to Argentina on several occasions, although this support does not necessarily have to be of a financial or a monetary nature."

He stressed: "The U.S. Government on several occasions stated that it is very pleased with the way Argentina is trying to solve its economic problems."

He said: "Such support has always been welcomed. Today we did not present any specific proposal. Should we need any special type of support, we will ask for it."

During the meeting between Cavallo and Todman, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Thomas Forbord was introduced to the Argentine foreign minister. Forbord will be in charge of the U.S. mission until Ambassador Todman returns.

The meeting was particularly significant because it was the first direct formal contact between Cavallo and Todman after Argentina expressed consternation over the U.S. invasion of Panama. Todman had released a communique expressing his disappointment over the condemnation with which the U.S. invasion has been received in Argentina.

U.S. Criticized for 'Overkill Approach'

PY0901215490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Jan 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Like an Elephant"]

[Text] This newspaper can hardly be accused of being anti-American but recent United States actions in the Caribbean region give grave cause for concern. Given the frequency of military interference in Latin American life, it is supremely ironic that the U.S. should be apparently less aware than other American countries that fighting the drug trade is fundamentally a police and not a military problem. Sending 24,000 troops into a sovereign country to arrest one suspected drug-trafficker (Manuel Antonio Noriega) was extremely heavyhanded and the current spate of gunboat diplomacy off the Colombian coast (reminiscent of Theodore Roosvelt's "big stick") is a further escalation. The State Department may indulge in semantics over whether or not Colombia is being "blockaded" but it is hard to see how the U.S. warships on drug patrol can meaningfully perform their task without serious interference with trade.

The United States has reasons for all these hostile moves but each time there seems to be less justification and more wanton aggression. The initial U.S. military involvement in anti-drug activities in Bolivia and Peru did not raise many regional hackles but the Panama invasion aroused a storm of indignation even if the presence of such an utter villain as Noriega on the other side makes it hard to reject the invasion out of hand. Washington has far less convincing reasons for cracking down on Colombia: mostly frustration with an inefficient anti-drug effort which is now compounded by the inability of the national and provincial governments to agree on whether to take a hard or soft line. When Colombia asks why the U.S. does not patrol its own coasts, it should be pointed out in fairness that the U.S. has an infinitely longer coastline than Colombia. But this is no argument for the use of military force. The U.S. might argue that the drug trade with its private armies has grown beyond the scale of a police problem but the police can always be equipped accordingly (in Romania the former regime's police was so much better armed than the Army that the latter probably could not have prevailed without the total support of the population). If the problem is now universal in scope, the solution should proceed through international bodies like the United Nations.

Quite apart from the regional aspects, President George Bush should ask himself where his aggressive behaviour leaves Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev vis-a-vis opposition hardliners in the Kremlin, who can argue that the changes in the Soviet Union are not being reflected in the West. Does Bush really want to help Gorbachev survive? And where does his behaviour leave President Carlos Menem, who wants friendship with the United States but cannot overlook the fact that he is Latin American? But for Argentina perhaps the biggest danger in this overkill approach is that if such indiscriminate repression were adopted here, the result could easily be another traumatic "dirty war."

Officials on Improving Relations With UK

PY0901154490 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Fishing Under Secretary Luis Otero has said that Argentina is "cautiously but firmly" seeing a thawing of relations with Great Britain. He said this following the confirmation this week of the UK decision to lift the restrictions on Argentine merchant ships around the Malvinas Islands.

The foreign minister has officially announced that as of 1 January Argentine merchant ships "will be able to sail the waters around the Malvinas Islands, including the illegal British protection zone, without fearing any incidents"

Otero said that ships "will be able to establish regular or special service lines to transport goods" even though the exclusion zone is still in effect.

"Transit has been deregulated but nothing has been established regarding docking rights in the islands," Otero said.

The official said that he did not think Argentine ships could fish in those waters yet, but insisted that the ministry "is negotiating with great caution and taking concrete steps" to improve the situation.

The lifting of restrictions on Argentine ships follows a UK delegation commitment made in Madrid in October last year.

On that occasion the UK Government promised to eliminate "the need for a permit for Argentine ships to enter the exclusion zone."

Margaret Thatcher's Government decision—made known through a Foreign Office communique—is another step toward the normalization of relations. Other steps in that direction include the 19 November signing of an agreement to exchange fishing information and the accreditation of consuls 2 days later.

Regarding fishing by Argentine ships, Otero said: "We are working on the issue with the Foreign Ministry, but we do not have any solution so far." Otero added: "The negotiations, however, will continue."

Otero then mentioned the next round of negotiations in Madrid on 14 February where "we could advance in some of these issues but we have to be very cautious."

"We had discussed the lifting of restrictions before. We have even released a declaration on the need to resume normal air and ocean transportation together with the resumption of consular relations," Otero recalled.

Asked about the fishing activity in the areas around the exclusion zone, Otero said the situation was normal because ships operate in international waters and added: "There are no limitations or problems of any kind here."

Otero said that the fishing agreement with Bulgaria is no longer in effect. He added that on 17 September the Argentine Government told the USSR that there was a need to "review" their fishing agreement—6 months before it expired— seeking to obtain better conditions for Argentina.

"On that occasion we told the USSR that before discussing the extension of the agreement we should review the so-called complementary agreements, referring to the implementation of the treaty. We are working on it to see the changes that need be introduced to represent our interests better," Otero stressed.

'Unprecedented' Fall in Stock Values 8 Jan

PY0901223890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in Spanish 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] The Stock Exchange was a scene of frantic dispair yesterday as shares plummeted over 40 percent, with blue chips taking a 50 percent dive—an historic but not entirely unexpected reaction for the first day of market operations since December 28.

The second week of the government's latest economic effort began with an abrupt descent in the stock market and in BONEX [export bonds] quotations while the dollar once again began another upward journey that imitated the sessions of last Thursday and Friday.

Yesterday, in a climate of pronounced illiquidity, shares in the stock market dropped an average 43.92 percent and BONEX lost parity against the dollar, dropping another 24 percent to 75 dollars (of face value 100) for Series 1982, while Series 1989 was quoted at 62,100 australs outside the stock exchange.

The Stock Exchange had been closed for two days for end-of-year national holidays, two days for bank holidays, and then the rest of the week by order of the board of directors which feared the shortage of australs would drive down prices.

This fall in stock values is unprecedented in the history of the Argentine exchange. Most analysts attributed the market's behaviour to the necessity on the part of businesses to obtain australs for their operating expenses.

The dollar, in turn, demonstrated a 14.07 percent rise and closed at 1,450/1550 australs in exchange houses against Friday's qoutation of 1,350 australs, while interest rates maintained their levels between 50 and 60 percent monthly for regular savings accounts.

All of this data points to a markets which tomorrow, according to operators, could become "reheated" since the redemption of almost 70 percent of the short-term deposits in the market will have been completed by Wednesday.

Central Bank [BCRA] Director Felipe Murolo reassured the public via statements on Radio Mitre that in the next few days the circulation of australs will "normalize" and the BCRA is "making all the necessary efforts" to guarantee the operation of the markets.

To mitigate, in part, these problems with liquidity last week Central Bank bought dollars in the free market in a move designed to increase its reserves and to try to preclude a strong descent in the value of the dollar against the austral.

Meanwhile, the official announcement that Argentina's cost of living for December "only" rose 40.1 percent—when private statistics had predicted figures closer to 50 percent—seemed to permit a small decompression in consumer prices which had been raised by retailers as a "preventive" measure.

The Institute of Economic and Social Policy, however, gave their estimate for inflation for the first week of January of 23.3 percent.

Commander Summons Seineldin Over Coup Charges

PY0901221290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Army Chief of Staff Isidro Caceres summoned former Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin to "ratify or rectify" statements attributed to him by Nicanor Villafane Molina, a man who presented himself as Seineldin's "personal spokesman" and told the press that the polemic ex-officer had told some 250 leaders he met in Cordoba that Caceres was preparing a coup d'etat.

Villafane Molina had pointed out that Seineldin was carrying out a tour throughout the country to "analyze the socio-economic crisis" with representatives of different sectors, and that Cordoba was the first place he visited after complying with a 10-day house arrest ordered by Caceres in relation to Seineldin's statements over the United States invasion of Panama.

According to Villafane Molina, Seineldin also stated that "the government has lost its way amid the problems of the nation" and that "the socio-economic situation is so serious that it will probably lead to incidents of social violence."

Bolivia

Congress Refuses To Recognize Endara Government

PY0901172690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jan (EFE)—The Bolivian Congress supports the official decision not to recognize the new Panamanian administration and has requested that this example be followed by other Latin American countries in face of what it describes as "unfair military aggression" by the United States.

In a resolution approved last night, Congress also repudiated the "aggressive U.S. incursions into Colombian territorial waters," thus referring to the two U.S. warships that were sent to watch the Colombian coast.

The Bolivian Congress asks other regional governments to demand that the United States withdraw its forces from Panama and to pay compensation for the human losses and property damage caused during the "unfair military aggression" in keeping with provisions of the UN and OAS charters and the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR).

The Bolivian Congress agreed "to urge Latin American governments not to recognize the government imposed by the invading forces in Panama, and to only recognize a constitutional government elected in the future."

In the same resolution, the two chambers of the Bolivian Congress repudiated the White House's decision to send two warships to Colombian territorial waters without first notifying the Colombian Government.

Armed Forces To Participate in Antidrug Struggle

PY1001000090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jan (EFE)—The Bolivian Army will participate in the antidrug struggle. The 1,200 policemen who have thus far conducted the antidrug operations are insufficient to suppress the production of and trafficking in illegal drugs.

Bolivia is the second largest coca producer in the world. Coca leaves are used to make cocaine. The authorities believe that there are many clandestine cocaine processing laboratories in the jungles of northern Bolivia.

Army Commander General Rolando Espinoza has said that "the Bolivian Army will participate in the antidrug struggle and will support prevention, interdiction, and alternative development in cocaine growing regions."

Espinoza's statements, which were published today by the morning newspaper PRESENCIA, have thus clarified an issue which has been raised in the past few months in the wake of the need for military support for the small police force.

The suppression of illegal coca growing and cocaine processing in a country of over 1 million kilometers square has thus far been carried out by just 1,200 troops of the Special Antinarcotics Force.

Last week, Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico, who is in charge of antidrug political coordination, revealed that there are plans to increase the number of the Special Antinarcotics Force to 5,000 troops. He added that the Army "must participate" in the antidrug struggle.

Espinoza has reported that the defense minister and the Armed Forces high commander have already given instructions that the Army will participate in the antidrug struggle beginning "on an undetermined date."

Espinoza, however, added that during 1990 the Army "will implement a permanent training program for officers and troops that will engage in the antidrug struggle, drug abuse prevention, and the replacement of coca plantations."

According to official estimates, 155,000 metric tons of coca leaf per year are obtained from the approximately 62,000 hectares of the most productive Bolivian lands which are used for coca plantations.

The coca plantation and cocaine processing, which involve half a million Bolivians, produce an income that is 10 times more than the value of legal exports.

The Army commander's statements follow those made by Army Chief of Staff General Jorge Moreira, who did not confirm Armed Forces participation in the antidrug struggle but said that the military "is ready to assume that responsibility."

General Moreira said that Army cooperation will depend on the economic and technical cooperation that Bolivia can get in the "summit" to be held on 15 February in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, by the presidents of Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, the world's main producers of cocaine, and the U.S. President.

The "Bennett Plan" designed by the Whitehouse in 1989 for the struggle against drug trafficking called for Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia to receive $265 million in aid in 1990.

Of that amount Bolivia will receive $97.5 million of which $41 million will be for military assistance, $30.7 million for alternative development, $22.3 million for police and judicial suppression, and $3.5 million for intelligence.

Chile

President-Elect Names New Cabinet Members

PY0901233290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2121 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Ceremony to name members of President-elect Patricio Aylwin's Cabinet held at Aylwin's private office in Santiago—live]

[Excerpts] [Aylwin] On this occasion I want to inform the country of the names of those who have accepted appointments as ministers of state in the first Cabinet of my government.

This team responds to the desire [4-second break in reception] to establish a suprapartisan government of a broad nationalist spirit with highly capable people and, basically, taking into account the country's interests.

I want to express my recognition [4-second break in transmission] honoring their public commitment that this would be a participative government [words indistinct] of parties, have placed their respective teams at my disposal so that I could freely choose my aides.

I also want to express my recognition to those parties and independent sectors that have supported me, and which are not represented in my Cabinet, and tell them that I hope to have the support they have offered me at other government levels. They have all shown me their goodwill, and I think we have chosen a homogeneous team that represents the commitment of the various sectors of the coalition to support the government I will head as if it were their own government.

The following are the members of my Cabinet:

Interior minister	Enrique Krauss Rusque
Foreign minister	Enrique Silva Cimma
Economy minister	Carlos Ominami Pascual
Finance minister	Alejandro Foxley Rioseco
Education minister	Ricardo Lagos Escobar
Justice minister	Francisco Cumplido Cereceda
National defense minister	Patricio Rojas Saavedra
Public works minister	Carlos Hurtado Ruiz-Tagle
Agriculture minister	Juan Agustin Figueroa (Yavar)
National patrimony minister	Luis Alvarado (Constenla)
Labor minister	Rene Cortazar Sanz
Health minister	Jorge Jimenez de la Jara
Mining minister	Juan Hamilton Depassier
Housing and urban development minister	Alberto Etchegaray Aubry
Transport and telecommunications minister	German Correa Diaz
Minister secretary general of government	Enrique Correa Diaz

I have also made the following appointments that, according to the law currently in force, have the rank of minister:

Secretary General of the Presidency	Edgardo Boeninger Kausel
Director of theNational Planning Office, [ODEPLAN]	Sergio Molina Silva
Vice President of the Production Development Corporation [CORFO]	Rene Abeliuk Manasevich
President of the National Energy Commission	Jaime Toha Gonzalez

[5-second break in reception] of the various ministries, advisors, and heads of the various services that fall directly under the president of the republic I will appoint shortly. I hope to have some information in this regard early next week.

I will also ask the teams that have already chosen to come up with some names to fill other government posts throughout the country and abroad.

Regarding those who will fill posts within our country, I have asked the member parties of the coalition to propose people who reside in the respective region, province, or district where they will serve, and I have asked that the nominees be popular among the people.

I am choosing these teams with great optimism, and I am certain that my government will be a government of unity that will seek the reconciliation of the Chilean people. I have great confidence that the people I have chosen for my Cabinet and, exercising my powers, the ones I will choose for the remaining posts I am supposed to fill, will honor this spirit that inspires us to govern interpreting the national desire for understanding and reconciliation.

This is all I have to say.

Merino, Pinochet Disagree on Military Charter

PY1001110890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Following a disagreement between Admiral Jose Toribio Merino and President Augusto Pinochet, the government junta did not approve the Armed Forces charter today. After the usual legislative session at the Diego Portales Building, Merino said that he disagreed with a specific proposal made by the chief of state. The Navy chief of staff said: I disagree. I want to do things my way, and because I like to do things my way, there can be no agreement.

Adm Merino then emphasized that the junta would continue to discuss the matter today and that, if the three members of the legislative branch agree with him, the charter will be approved. He added that if the executive branch does not agree that would be its problem.

[Begin Merino recording] The executive branch made a proposal which we analyzed. I do not agree with the proposal. We will meet with [words indistinct] to see whether they think the way I do. If the executive branch does not agree, it is their problem. [end recording]

The Navy chief of staff said the disagreement was about technical- professional matters and that on Thursday the junta will make an announcement on the Armed Forces charter.

Asked about the meeting he held with President-elect Patricio Aylwin, Merino said they discussed general issues. He said they did not discuss whether he will remain as Navy chief of staff or resign, because Merino has clearly stated before that he will leave the position before 11 March and will appoint his successor.

Asked about what he will do after resigning, Merino said: I will paint, play, and ride bicycles.

Possible Reasons for U.S. Antidrug Actions

PY0901140290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Commentary by Olga Klivadenko]

[Text] The deployment of U.S. ships, including the aircraft carrier "John F. Kennedy" and the corvette "Virginia" along the Colombian coast yesterday, seeking to intercept drug trafficking routes, could be the result of three policies:

First, that the United States needs to justify the invasion of Panama under the excuse of its fight against drug trafficking.

Second, that both the deployment of ships and the invasion of Panama are part of a serious military plan to end the drug plague.

Third, that the United States must somehow justify the invasion of Panama and the need to recover its international image has provided a real opportunity to put an end to drug trafficking.

If the objective really is to eliminate drugs, then the battle is praiseworthy, but—like in Panama—the procedure is painful, overbearing, imperialistic, and humiliating. Instead of winning the Latin American countries' appreciation and solidarity with this laudable cause, the United States is again provoking angry reactions and deep distrust. The side effects of this action could be very negative for the struggle against drug trafficking, in which all the countries of this continent should be cooperating. Alternatively, would it be better if they did not cooperate in this phase?

Could it be that what we have called imperialistic clumsiness, insensibility, and abuse, is simply a deliberate strategy with which, perhaps for well founded reasons and even at the risk of diplomatic conflicts, the United States seeks to isolate Latin America on purpose

and thus ensure the success of its operation? If this were the case then we must ask, why?

From its operations in Panama and Colombia, the United States is telling us that it is not concerned with the diplomatic aspect for the time being. The United States wants action and efficiency. The United States is loosing its patience, and perhaps its confidence in the seriousness and capability of Latin America to face this war.

If the action in Colombia goes further than a mere surveillance, the United States will be establishing a precedent in this battle against drug trafficking. This means that during a first phase the United States will carry out a military operation by itself. During a second phase it will discuss secondary subjects but with less urgency in the war against drug trafficking.

Next 15 February, Bush will meet in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, with his Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian counterparts. Perhaps on that occasion they will talk about the other aspects of this war: The reorganization of the local economies to end the dependency on coca plantations, the recovery of drug addicts, and the consolidation of governments, etc.

During this current phase, however, the United States wishes to act alone. Who knows if it is because of Latin America's lack of understanding? As we said a few days ago, the drug trafficking problem is creating new situations in international relations. The U.S. proposal is probably something like: Could a world power like the United States continue to ignore a serious problem like the production, distribution, and consumption of drugs, merely to avoid harming Latin American sensibilities, sensibilities of countries whose governments are always muddled up in useless diplomatic and bureaucratic procedures and fruitless negotiations? And all this while a large part of the developed world's population is becoming addicted to a deadly product?

The United States could also be asking itself: Have the Latin American governments been able to solve this serious problem by themselves? Can those governments stop drug trafficking when it is known that drugs and corruption go hand in hand; when in the past and perhaps in the present, high ranking government officials have been linked with this illegal trade and protecting the Medellin cartel chiefs? Why, for example, after all this hasn't the Colombian Government managed to extradite the main chiefs of that cartel to the United States?

Let us recall the horrible explosion of the Colombian airliner, in which more than 100 people died; the bomb explosion in the secret police headquarters in Bogota; the murder of many journalists who were engaged in an heroic war against drug trafficking; and mainly, let us recall the ever-present difficulties that must be faced when the Medellin cartel chiefs must be punished and extradited.

Colombia

Londono on Resignation Rumors, U.S. Naval Ships

PA1001015590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0040 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Upon his return to Bogota, Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono vigorously denied that he plans to resign from his post. In addition, Londono asserted that he has excellent relations with President Virgilio Barco. He also revealed that in due time, the Colombian Government would clearly inform the Bush administration of its position and concern regarding the announced U.S. naval maneuvers in the Caribbean region.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What would Colombia be willing to yield?

[Londono] The verb to yield is not in our dictionary.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, the communiques from Washington and Bogota regarding the naval operations are similar in one area: They both say that the topic has not been formally, but only informally discussed? What do you mean by informal discussions of the issue?

[Londono] There has not been any conversation regarding that matter. I can simply tell you that we have already expressed our position and we will maintain that position clearly and cordially.

[Reporter] Do you think, Mr Minister, that in view of recent actions, the government in Washington could create a de facto situation as it seemed that it was going to happen in the last few hours?

[Londono] I do not even want to speculate or assume anything. [end recording]

Pablo Escobar's Nephew Arrested in Spain

PA1001024090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Thirteen Colombians, including a nephew of Pablo Escobar named Juan Carlos Betancourt, were arrested by Spanish police with 278 kg of cocaine. Following an operation that began 2 months ago, the authorities found the drugs in several residences in a very exclusive Madrid neighborhood.

As if it were coffee, the cocaine was marked 100 percent pure Colombian product. The authorities also seized about $200,000 from the group that was headed by Mario Hernandez Sepulveda, alias Jairo.

Spanish police reported that the group was part of the Medellin Cartel. Four other Colombians had been arrested on 5 January in Spain with 21 kg of cocaine.

'Extraditable' Arrested in Northern Bogota

PA1001005890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0014 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Another Extraditable was arrested today in northern Bogota in a luxurious apartment for which he paid 800,000 pesos in monthly rent. The arrested man is Joaquin Osvaldo Gallo Chaparro, who is sought by courts in Florida for smuggling 1 ton of cocaine into the United States and for the possession of undeclared money. According to the information from the F-2 [Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics], Gallo Chaparro belongs to the Cali cartel and is trusted by Jose Rafael Abello, alias El Mono Abello. Gallo lived in Florida for 18 years where he graduated from school as a civil engineer.

Kidnapped Mayor of Achi Found Murdered

PA0901143790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0427 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 9 Jan (EFE)—Ricardo Alfonso Castellar, Mayor of Achi, in the northern Department of Bolivar, who was kidnapped on 5 January, apparently by Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrillas, was found dead today, according to authorities.

Castellar was kidnapped on 5 January on the outskirts of Achi, about 850 km north of Bogota, by a group of armed men, who forced him to accompany them to an undisclosed location.

Police sources in Cartagena reported that Castellar's body showed signs of torture and several bullet wounds.

Castellar was kidnapped by ELN guerrillas while he was traveling in a boat down the Cauca River to the Tenche area, a region within his jurisdiction.

In Cartagena it was reported that Castellar faced a "revolutionary trial" by the ELN and that he was found guilty and executed.

Castellar is the second mayor that has been murdered in Colombia in the last 3 days.

On 5 January, Carlos Julio Torrado, Mayor of Abrego in the northeastern Department of Santander, was killed apparently by another guerilla column, also belonging to the ELN.

Torrado's son, William; Gustavo Jacome Quintero, the departmental Government Secretary; and bodyguard Jairo Ortega, were also killed.

The group was traveling in a 4-wheel drive vehicle between Cucuta and the rural area known as Campanario when their vehicle was blown up by four explosive charges that detonated on the highway.

Peasants Flee Clashes Between Army, Rebels

PA0901141890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Medellin—The National Army was involved in new clashes within the past few hours with FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in the rural area of Yondo in Antioquia's Middle Magdalena region.

Spokesmen for the 5th Brigade reported 5 soldiers killed, several wounded, and at least 12 rebel casualties.

The exodus of peasants from that region continued to increase today according to official reports. The peasants walked away from their properties to avoid becoming victims of the clashes.

Peru

Garcia on Situation at Embassy in Panama

PY1001003690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0034 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] President Alan Garcia has confirmed that the U.S. troops that surrounded our diplomatic mission in Panama were withdrawn after a former minister surnamed Cordova left the embassy. The military man, who is involved in a murder trial, left the Peruvian Embassy as soon as he learned that the embassy considered him persona non grata.

[Begin Garcia recording] I think journalists have magnified the issue a bit. As far as we know, people sought protection.... [changes thought] Someone arrives at the door of the embassy and asks for refuge in view of a situation of force. The situation in Panama is abnormal; it has been totally invaded by 30,000 soldiers.

Some persons entered the embassy. At least one of them had been allegedly linked with the death of a Panamanian minister, a Mr Spadafora, who was murdered. The authorities of the embassy and of the Foreign Ministry stated that this person's presence was undesirable. We do not refuse to grant refuge—a condition that is granted before granting political asylum—to whomever feels harassed or mistreated. In a case like this, however, in which there was an alleged involvement in a murder which was committed years ago, this person—I believe he is a man surnamed Cordova, apparently a high-ranking Panamanian Guard officer—was told that his presence was not wanted. He left the embassy of his own will.

There are other Panamanian Defense Forces officers at the embassy, including Mr Noriega's secretary, but their status should be established by Peru.

An incident was reported yesterday, as the U.S. troops surrounded the embassy, deploying barriers and barbed

wire. There was an attempt to depict a dramatic and spectacular picture of a siege or perhaps of an invasion of the embassy.

Fortunately, the Foreign Ministry resorted to diplomatic channels and the troops were soon withdrawn. [end recording]

Larco Cox Comments

PY0901193490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The following is a statement by Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox on the events in Panama:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Are there any members of the Army in the Peruvian ambassador's residence in Panama?

[Larco Cox] There are three people in asylum for whom a request for safe-conduct passes to travel abroad have been made. The presence of the U.S. occupation troops has been reduced to less than 10 to prevent those who requested asylum from leaving the residence. The U.S. ambassador in Lima was summoned this morning to receive the Peruvian Government protest over yesterday's action.

[Reporter] Initially, how many U.S. troops carried out this action?

[Larco Cox] It was an entire battalion carrying all kinds of weapons, barbed wire, and even sound equipment.

[Reporter] What kind of protest is the Foreign Ministry going to make?

[Larco Cox] A diplomatic protest. We made it clear that we very strongly protest the U.S. action. Yesterday when the residence was besieged we immediately called the State Department which ordered that troops be withdrawn and reduced to less than 10. An order was also given for the withdrawal of all the other additional elements.

[Reporter] Was the action of the U.S. forces justified?

[Larco Cox] The information that was apparently leaked to the U.S. forces was that Lieutenant Colonel Cordova, known as Papo Cordova, was in the residence of the embassy under diplomatic protection. As President Garcia has already said, Col. Cordova is persona non grata for Peru and his asylum would not be considered because he did not fulfill all the requirements. In view of this, he withdrew voluntarily, and we immediately informed the Panamanian Foreign Ministry under the authority of the 1954 Caracas Convention, which states in Article 10 that this does not imply that a government is recognized. We reported who was under diplomatic protection and those who had entered the premises and then left.

Then this sudden mobilization of invading troops occurred, and the events that I have explained occurred such as our telephone call to the U.S. State Department, the withdrawal of the troops, and then the consequences such as the formal protest that we made to the U.S. ambassador in Peru.

[Reporter] Who is currently in the embassy, Mr. Minister?

[Larco Cox] There is a colonel, the commander of a battalion called either Machos or Gatos del Monte; a colonel named Gonzalez; the secretary of dictator Noriega, Captain Tason; and a relative of hers, who is also a member of the Defense Forces with a lower rank.

[Reporter] But, Mr. Minister, how are you going to handle the people who are in the embassy?

[Larco Cox] Well, as I have explained, we have officially informed the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, and we have requested safe conducts so that they can travel to the country of their choice. [end recording]

Asylum Granted to 12

PY1001111690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 10 Jan (AFP)—Peru has granted diplomatic asylum to 12 Panamanian citizens, 5 military officers among them, who are at the Peruvian Embassy in Panama. The Peruvian Government also expressed "its categorical protest" to the U.S. Government over the surrounding of the Peruvian Embassy residence in Panama by U.S. forces.

Former Defense Minister Lopez Albujar Killed

PY0901170090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1506 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (EFE)—Authorities have reported that former Peruvian Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez Albujar died today in Lima as a consequence of a terrorist attack.

Lopez Albujar, former Army commander general and defense minister until May 1989, was riddled with bullets by three young individuals as he was getting out of his car in an open parking lot in a commercial center in the residential neighborhood of San Isidro.

Lopez Albujar, 63, was driving his own car without an escort. He was shot eight times in the chest. The former minister was rushed to the Air Force Hospital where he died.

Defense Ministry on Murder

PY1001023690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Here is an official Defense Ministry communique:

1. At 0945 this morning, a group of subversives conducted an armed terrorist attack against former Defense Minister Division General Enrique Lopez Albujar, retired.

2. The victim was taken to the Air Force hospital where he unfortunately passed away.

3. The authorities are investigating the attack, and they are conducting the appropriate operations to capture the criminals.

[dated and signed] Lima, 9 January 1990, Defense Ministry Communications Office.